

Second day of the Seventeenth Meeting
MC(17) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 11/09
TRAVEL DOCUMENT SECURITY –
ICAO PUBLIC KEY DIRECTORY**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the OSCE commitments to counter terrorism, in particular to enhance travel document security as stipulated by the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (MC(9).DEC/1), the Maastricht Ministerial Council Decision on Travel Document Security (MC.DEC/7/03), as well as two Ministerial Council Decisions in Sofia (MC.DEC/4/04) and Brussels (MC.DEC/6/06) encouraging greater use of the INTERPOL Stolen/Lost Travel Document Database, and acknowledging the significant contribution by the OSCE in the area of travel document security,

Reaffirming its commitment to implement effective and resolute measures against terrorism and to prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls relating to the issuance of identity papers and travel documents while facilitating the free and secure movement of persons in conformity with relevant legal frameworks,

Acknowledging the importance of cross-border communication for international co-operation in countering international terrorism, organized crime and trafficking in all its forms, and the added value of the OSCE in facilitating assistance and providing a framework for co-operation on these issues,

Taking note of the wide scale implementation of electronic Machine Readable Travel Documents (eMRTDs) by the OSCE participating States,

Recognizing the need to enable relevant national authorities to effectively validate the authenticity of electronic security features and biometric data stored in eMRTDs as a precondition for the verification of the identity of the bearer of an eMRTD on the basis of the aforesaid features and data,

Taking note of the work by ICAO in developing the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) to promote a globally interoperable validation system for eMRTDs in order to significantly improve border security measures and thereby to contribute to counter terrorism and to the prevention of illegal cross-border activities,

Taking note of the G8 Justice and Home Affairs Ministers statement of 29–30 May 2009, which fully supports the participation of ICAO Contracting States in the ICAO PKD and requests all states to verify the authenticity of the information in ePassport chips and to use the ICAO PKD,

Noting that it is ICAO recommended practice that States issuing or intending to issue ePassports and/or implementing automated checks on ePassports at border controls should participate in the PKD,

Calls on the participating States to consider becoming participants in the ICAO PKD, subject to administrative and financial resources, and thereby to contribute to enabling border control and other relevant national authorities to validate digital signatures of electronic eMRTDs;

Encourages participating States with the capability to do so to provide financial and technical assistance in implementing this measure to other participating States that request it;

Tasks the Secretary General to organize, within available resources, in co-ordination with the Chairmanship-in-Office and in co-operation with ICAO an OSCE expert workshop in 2010 in Vienna, designed to raise awareness and to facilitate the participation in and the use of the ICAO PKD by the participating States;

Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement this decision and other OSCE commitments on travel document security.