ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION (API) SYSTEM

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SUMMARY

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1. The problem of the border control

Passengers volume

International terrorism

Drug trafficking

Large aircraft

Border Controls

Transnational crime

Expanded facilities

Manpower

Illegal migration

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2. How to minimize the problem?

information technology

intelligence exchange ⬅➡ enhance the effectiveness

greater cooperation

- between border control agencies (internal and international)
- between border control agencies and the aircraft operators

3. International Policy

Annex 9 - Recommended Practice 3.47, advises that States introduce a system of advance passenger information, which allows the capture of passenger information prior to departure, as well as the transmission and analysis of such data by the public authorities concerned.

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4. Purpose of API

Aircraft Operators

Border Control Agencies

- **adequate time to determine their response.**
- **faster clearance of low-risk passengers.**
- **focus control resources on travelers with higher risk levels.**

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STEP 1

capturing passengers and flight data before departure

STEP 2

transmitting the information by electronic means to the respective public authorities

STEP 3

processing such data for profiling, (risk assessment) and determining the process to be applied after arrival

Aircraft Operators

PAXLST was developed as the standard format

Border Control Agencies

cooperation of all parties involved with different information needs.

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5. Costs/benefits and limitations of an APIS

• **advance notification of the arrival of potential offenders.**

• **rigorous screening of inbound passengers to be accomplished, targeting those passengers that present the highest risk, and allowing for the faster throughout of low risk passengers**

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• considerable investment in computer hardware, software, and training of personnel on the parts of both the operators and the control authorities.

• an electronically accessible database(s) is essential.

• **API system can effectively resolve diversified security problems, unacceptably long delays in passenger processing, and the scarcity of personnel resources.**

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5. Costs/benefits and limitations of an APIS

Legal Aspects of API

Data privacy and data protection legislation can vary from country to country. However, there is a large degree of commonality of provisions that personal data undergoing automated processing:

• should be obtained and processed fairly and lawfully. Including the data transmission across national borders;

• should be stored for legitimate purposes and not used in any way incompatible with those purposes;

• should be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purposes for which they are stored;

• should be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date;

• should be preserved in a form which permits identification of the data subjects for no longer than is required for the purposes for which that data is stored.

6.   Conclusions

• **API is a technique that has the capability of bringing substantial advantages to all involved in the movement of passengers.**

• **The widespread use of API depends to a large degree on a common approach by all concerned (aircraft operators and Border Control Agencies) to the question of data standards.**

• **API system can effectively resolve diversified security problems, unacceptably long delays in passenger processing, and the deterioration of enforcement efforts due to scarcity of personnel resources.;**

• **Once a state decided to introduce an Advance Passenger Information (API) system, it shall adhere to international recognized standards for the transmission of Advance Passenger Information established in the Annex 9 and detailed in the Facilitation Manual – ICAO Doc 9957**

• **The National Air Transport Facilitation Programme is the appropriate tool to establish the requirements and the coordination procedures to implement the API system process.**

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