



TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (TAG-MRTD)

SEVENTEENTH MEETING

Montréal, 20 to 22 March 2007

Agenda item : 2: Implementation of ePasports 2.1 : Progress and Issues

Use of Smart Cards with Machine Readable Passports

Presented by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The objective of the Technical Report (titled 'Use of smart cards with machine-readable passports') is to describe the use of detachable smart cards with a passport book (known as the Hybrid TR), and is intended to form the basis for approval by ICAO (and subsequent standardization into ICAO Document 9303) to allow the use of smart cards with MRPs as a globally interoperable form factor.

1.2 The hybrid concept was conceived as an ID-1 size biometric-enabled passport card that would be associated with but detachable from a passport book. There are several benefits of using such a hybrid option with its detachable passport card, namely, lower cost and ease of implementation. Also, the hybrid concept allows for third party application versatility, which may include domestic Air Travel initiatives and secured identity. Additionally, as chip technology develops, there may be a wish to upgrade or replace them and the hybrid system provides an easy way to achieve it at lower cost. The hybrid system is also in alignment with ICAO's long term vision of an electronic Passport Card.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At the recent meeting on the 6th of February 2007 of the NTWG in Portugal, participants reached a consensus when reviewing the work program for the Hybrid TR development. The Hybrid TR offered an alternative or supplement to the current e-passport book. The NTWG participants have surmised from the discussion that the demand for such an application utilising the Hybrid TR was not present.

2.2 It was then announced by the chairman, with agreement from the participants, to recommend to the TAG that further development of the Technical Report (titled ‘Use of smart cards with machine-readable passports’) be kept on hold but not withdrawn, keeping in view that if future requirements dictate, the development of the Technical Report could be reinstated.

3. **ACTION BY TAG/MRTD**

The NTWG invites the TAG/MRTD:

- a) to note the work done to date on the Technical Report (titled ‘Use of smart cards with machine-readable passports’); and
- b) to approve the proposed next steps (refer to 2.2).

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