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FACILITATION (FAL) DIVISION — TWELFTH SESSION

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Agenda Item 2: Facilitation and security of travel documents and border control formalities 2.2 Biometrics

IMPLEMENTATION OF BIOMETRIC TECHNIQUES ON FRENCH AIRPORTS

(Presented by France)

SUMMARY

This information presents to the Division an overview of deployment on French airports of biometric techniques for staff control at access into the restricted area.

1. Nowadays biometric techniques are being experimented in several domains of airport security. In particular, they appear attractive for recognition and verification of staff members prior to access into the restricted area. Such recognition and verification consist in checking personal access card by electronic reading of the biometric data recorded within this card, and by comparing those data with those of the owner's access card captured at each passage at entry points. In most cases, this verification will avoid the need to match the identity card and the access card, and will thus improve facilitation.

2. In this perspective, in 2002, the French Civil Aviation Directorate provided its support to Aéroports de Paris in the testing process of biometric techniques for the control of staff entering the restricted area at Paris - Charles de Gaulle and Paris - Orly airports. Outputs of this experiment led Aéroports de Paris to decide to install biometric systems based upon fingerprint capture. Completion of the installation process is planned by end of 2004 at Paris airports. All the staff working within the restricted area, about 100,000 people, will get an access card which includes a chip memory containing the owner's biometric data. The retained technology combines the capture of the fingerprint parameters and comparison of those data with those which have been recorded on the chip memory included in the access card. The biometric sensors chosen by Aéroports de Paris are of the optronic type; those sensors are quick (2 seconds for recognition) and reliable (allowing detection of dummy fingers). However, since

¹ English version provided by France

biometric techniques are continuously improved, a provision has been made for further implementation of another biometric technique, either in addition or in replacement of the fingerprint technique.

3. Still with the objective of determination of the most appropriate biometric means, depending upon the local constraints, the French Civil Aviation Directorate is currently leading an experiment at five regional airports. This will allow assessment of :

- constraints to be taken into account for installation, integration in the existing access control systems and maintenance;
- performance and easiness of use of the biometric techniques;
- acceptability of biometrics by concerned people.

4. Implementation of biometric techniques is systematically subject to prior agreement from the Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés. This commission has to ensure that software implemented for treatment of personal data do not affect either human rights, or individual or public freedoms.

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