



FACILITATION (FAL) DIVISION — TWELFTH SESSION

Cairo, Egypt, 22 March to 2 April 2004

Agenda Item 2: Facilitation and security of travel documents and border control formalities **2.4: Advance passenger information (API)**

TOWARDS A REAL VISION FOR ADOPTING PRE-INFORMATION OF PASSENGERS

(Presented by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Previous primary studies and discussions during ICAO Facilitation meetings, the efforts of specialized organization such as the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and certain countries show that security and operational advantages can be achieved by undertaking the API system which involves information sent to the government airport authority in advance about the arriving passengers.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 In order for this deliberation to realize its purposes in consonance with objectives of Annex 9 – *Facilitation* and so as to facilitate and expedite passenger, goods and air cargo movement at the airports, and to minimize the conceivable risks, it should be noticed that the API system requires both the air carriers (operators) and airport government authorities to:

- a) protect the passengers' personal information even if essential, and to use this information only for custom duties and security purposes for which the system has been developed;
- b) fill the required information accurately from the machine readable travel documents making sure that those documents have not been counterfeited;
- c) establish an ICAO required time frame to send the API information about passengers, considering the time involved to finalize departure procedures and flight time prior to passenger arrival at the final destination;
- d) consider transit points, boarding of new passengers prior to flight arrivals at final destination; and

¹ Arabic version provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

- e) establish proper alternatives for API mechanism by certain operators lacking the required technical capabilities to send the necessary information by electronic means.

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recommends the following:

- a) maintaining this system as a recommended procedure to ICAO State members, and encouraging implementation by airports and operators for a period not exceeding five (5) years, after which the API system advantages and disadvantages and the extent of its application can be reviewed;
- b) ICAO to issue a guide for Contracting States containing important controls and steps for API undertaking and the organizational frames as set in the discussion in paragraph 2 above; and
- c) API system to be observed in bilateral agreements between Contracting States under Aviation Security, or in bilateral and multilateral agreements' amendments.

4. **ACTION BY THE DIVISION**

4.1 The Division is invited to review the above recommendations.

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