



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

**NINETEENTH MEETING**

**Montréal, 7 to 9 December 2009**

**Agenda Item 2: Activities of the NTWG**

**Agenda Item 2.14: Reinforcement of Compliance in the Production of MRPs**

**REINFORCEMENT OF COMPLIANCE IN THE PRODUCTION OF  
MACHINE READABLE PASSPORTS (MRPS)**

(Presented by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG))

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 ICAO has mandated that all contracting states should issue compliant machine readable passports from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and that all non machine readable passports should expire by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 at the latest. The UK, working with other G8 states within the G8 Lyon/Roma Migration Experts Sub Group (MESG), has completed a project in support of ICAO's requirement.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 The principle aim of this project was to identify those countries not issuing Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) – both in view of the ICAO requirement for Contracting States to issue only MRP from 01 April 2010 and the fact that the MRP was first introduced over 20 years ago. The value of a MRP is significant; it provides a globally interoperable travel document; it is more secure than a handwritten travel document and it is formatted in a way that is recognisable to border authorities, visa officers, airlines etc.; it provides a more effective method of checking watch lists. The project proposal stated 'The overall aim will be to reduce the number of countries that appear on the list of non-MRP issuers'.

2.2 Following a significant amount of investigation and with the help of other members of the MESG, the following deliverables were achieved:

- Defined and produced a list of countries believed not yet to be MRP compliant
- Produced a table showing where outreach work is being undertaken in the listed countries by either G8 states or other organisations

- Categorized the listed countries into four showing high level position re outreach needs.

### 3. **PRESENT STATUS**

3.1 The project outcomes were approved by Heads of Delegation at the G8 Lyon/Roma meeting in Naples in April 2009. The project was also included in the final statement made by G8 Ministers at Rome on 30th May 2009. The G8 Ministerial statement included the following:

*Identifying and preventing the fraudulent use of travel documents must remain a priority. We acknowledge the important contribution of machine readable passports to global security. Consequently, we encourage all International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Contracting States, who currently do not issue machine readable passports, to take all appropriate steps to meet the ICAO requirement approved in 2005 that requires all states to issue compliant machine readable passports from 1 April 2010. As an ICAO recommended practice all non machine readable passport should expire at 1 April 2015 at the latest.*

### 4. **ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD**

4.1 The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

- a) note the completion of this G8 project and its approval and Ministerial endorsement by the G8 Lyon/Roma group;
- b) note that this paper has been given to ICAO's ICBWG to assist them in their continuing efforts to support achievement of the 2010 deadline.

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