



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

**TWENTIETH MEETING**

**Montréal, 7 to 9 September 2011**

- Agenda Item 2: Activities of the NTWG**  
**Agenda Item 2.10: Transliteration Rules (Turkish)**

**TRANSLITERATION RULES (TURKISH)**

(Presented by the NTWG)

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The purpose of the working paper is to inform the TAG of the progress made on the recommended transliteration of Turkish national characters for Doc Doc 9303, *Machine Readable Travel Documents*, Part 1 — *Machine Readable Passports*, Volume 1, Section IV, Appendix 9. These recommended transliterations apply to the MRZ only.

**2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1 The first edition of Doc 9303 included recommended transliterations for a small number of national characters of languages using the Latin script, for example, Ä (A diaeresis) as AE; Ö (O diaeresis) as OE; and Ü (U diaeresis) as UE or UXX.

2.2 In 1995, two countries made representations to have their national (Latin) characters included in the OCR-B font for use in the MRZ. The language and naming convention Working Group (LNCWG) carried out a survey of Latin national characters and found that there were over two hundred. The LNCWG came to the conclusion that any addition of national characters to the OCR-B font could lead in time to the inclusion of most if not all of the two hundred. This expansion of the OCR-B font from the current twenty seven characters in the name field (A-Z and <) would lead to the machine reading of the OCR-B font becoming error-prone to the point of unreadability. The LNCWG formulated Appendix 9, of Section IV, of Doc 9303 for transliterations of Latin national characters.

2.3 In formulating the transliterations the LNCWG kept the previous small number of transliterations of the first edition (eg Ä (A diaeresis) as AE; Ö (O diaeresis) as OE; and Ü (U diaeresis) as UE or UXX), and basically transliterated the remaining national characters by removing the relevant

accent mark to revert the character to its basic form (eg Á (A acute) as A; À (A grave) as A; and Â (A circumflex) as A).

2.4 Later, the LNCWG transliterated the Cyrillic font and included it in Appendix 9, Section IV, of Doc 9303. In doing so the LNCWG made some allowance for differences in national governments' transliterations of the same Cyrillic character. For example, Ж was transliterated as "ZH (except Serbian = Z)".

### 3. REQUEST BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY

3.1 In correspondence to the NTWG, the Turkish authorities stated that "Turkey have followed the recommendations of the Appendix 9 to Section IV in transliterating the Turkish special characters. The two exceptions were the letters Ö (O diaeresis) and Ü (U diaeresis), which are decided to be transliterated into the MRZ respectively as O and U whereas the said Appendix 9 recommends that these characters be transliterated as OE and UE, again respectively. There are several legal and cultural reasons for this decision whose details are beyond the scope of this communication." The relevant characters are set out in the table below:

<b>Turkish National character</b>	<b>Present transliteration in Appendix 9</b>	<b>Requested transliteration</b>
Ö	OE	O
Ü	UE or UXX	U

### 4. CHANGES TO APPENDIX 9

4.1 The Turkish national characters Ö and Ü should be allowed to be transliterated as O and U respectively. That this alternative is not allowed in Appendix 9 is an anomaly (as it does not follow the pattern for other national characters) and should be corrected.

### 5. ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD

5.1 The NTWG invites the TAG/MRTD to:

- a) approve the changes to Appendix 9 to accommodate the transliteration of Turkish national characters.

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