



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

TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

Montréal, 21 to 23 May 2014

Agenda Item 5: Country and Organizations reports

DEFINITION OF “CAPTIONS” IN ICAO DOC 9303 (PART 1 OF DRAFT 7th EDITION)

(Presented by EU Commission)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In Doc 9303(Part 1of the draft 7th edition) “Captions” are defined as “Printed word or phrase to identify a data field”. Further guidance is given in Part 3 chapter 3.3 stating: “Captions may be in the official language of the Issuing State or working language of the issuing organization. When such language uses the Latin alphabet, straight font style should be used to print the captions.”

1.2 The need occurred that the captions field has to accommodate for more official languages as space is provided. This problem might not be unique, but is likely to occur in the future. Therefore, solutions should be provided in Doc 9303 to accommodate such situations.

1.3 At the last meeting of the NTWG on 2-4 April, 2014, in Paris, France, the issue was discussed and decided that a Working Paper should be put forward to the TAG for decision.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 According to current DOC 9303 6th edition 2006, Part 1, Machine Readable Passports, Volume 1, Passports with Machine Readable Data, stored in Optical Character Recognition Format states on the captions: “8.4 Fields: Captions shall be used to identify all fields for mandatory data elements in the VIZ except as specified in the directory below and may be in the official language of the issuing State or working language of the issuing organization. If the official language of the issuing State or working language of the issuing organization used for captions is other than English, French or Spanish, one of these languages shall also be used, and the translation of the caption should be presented in italics.”

2.2 However, in case of many different official languages on an equal level, the need occurs to find a solution if in practice it proves to be impossible to accommodate for all official languages to be included in the captions field

3. **PROPOSED SOLUTION**

3.1 The solution of the issue described above could constitute to also allow identifiers such as numbers in the captions field and to provide the referral as well as the translations on the opposite page to the personal data page (page 3).

3.2 The solution suggested should not be problematic for border guards as it will not influence the machine readable zone (MRZ). Other persons authorised to check the passport would recognise the position of the field and in case of doubt can check the correctness on the opposite page.

3.3 Therefore, the following change for the suggested definition of “Captions” in the Doc 9303 (Part 1 of the draft 7th edition) is proposed: “Printed word, identifier or phrase to identify a data field”.

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

4.1 The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

- a) Take note of the above issue and its proposed solution
- b) Endorse its integration into Doc 9303 (Part 1 of the draft 7th edition)

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