

PKD Board Annual Report 2010

Purpose

Based on and in continuation of the PKD Board Annual Report 2009 the present Annual Report gives an overview over the development of the PKD as well as important activities of the PKD Board in the year 2010.

PKD Board Meetings

The PKD Board held three ordinary meetings in 2010 (March in Berlin, Germany / June in Prague, Czech Republic / October in Tokyo, Japan). In the course of the meeting in March the 2010 Chairperson was elected.

Operational Contract

During 2010 as the second year within a three years validity period the contract has again proven to be a solid basis for the smooth and sustained technical operation of the PKD. The financial regulations that were introduced with the contract and that are outlined in the Annual Report 2008 were successfully applied.

The PKD Board started preparations for a renewal of the operational contract and decided to continue with the current PKD Operator in 2012. Those preparations are directed towards, but are not limited to, a reduction of the financial burden for the active PKD Participants.

Master Lists

The PKD Participants started to upload Master Lists in the PKD in addition to Document Signer Certificates and Certificate Revocation Lists. With that the PKD now covers the whole security chain for ePassport signature validation. Though in 2010 the number of Master Lists remained small the viability of the concept has proven in day to day operation. At the end of 2010 the PKD Master Lists contained more than 60 different self signed CSCA Certificates from more than 40 countries. This means that the PKD now covers a significant part of the global ePassport issuing community. The Master List related update of the PKD technical documents has been completed in 2010.

Technology

The PKD Board started to consider the mid and long term future of the PKD. As central points of work the PKD Upload Contents Checks and the concept of Defect Lists have been identified.

The PKD Upload Contents Checks paper addresses possible national implementation differences for PKD data and the reactions of the PKD during upload of those data in terms of non-conformance tagging or rejection. With that the PKD is intended to become the implemented operational reference for ICAO Document 9303. The PKD Board decided to publish the PKD Upload Contents Checks paper once it is finalized.

The growing PKD participation in the long term calls for a more detailed and comprehensive handling of national implementation differences. The concept of Defect Lists turned out to be a promising method to meet the challenge of an unambiguous coexistence of the PKD

relevant international technical standards and the varying national implementation reality. The Defect Lists are only one reason for the close cooperation between ISO and the PKD Board.

Participation

In the course of 2010 the nine new PKD Participants Latvia, Czech Republic, Macao / China, United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong / China, Slovakia, Netherlands, Morocco and Austria could be welcomed. It must be highlighted that Macao / China and Hong Kong / China are the first two ePassport issuing non-State entities that participate in the PKD.

Together with Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, Germany, Republic of Korea, France, China, Kazakhstan, India, Nigeria, Switzerland and Ukraine there were twenty five PKD Participants at the end of 2010.

In May 2010 an OSCE PKD Workshop has been held in Vienna, Austria. 53 OSCE States were represented by technical experts and government decision makers. Including organizations and observers more than 200 attendees received an in-depth look at the PKD. The PKD Board supported this event by a number of contributions.

In December 2010 the EU Council inter alia recognized the importance of improving document checks and document security. In addition the development of closer world wide cooperation in that field has been underlined. These conclusions were based on a report given by the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator who in particular urged all EU Member States to participate in the PKD.

Administration

The PKD Board started work in 2007 and in the same year, on the basis of the PKD MoU, the ICAO Council appointed for a period of three years the first PKD Board Members. Further appointments followed to staff the PKD Board with the fifteen Members foreseen by the PKD MoU. PKD Board Members enjoy the right to vote and to be elected as chair of the PKD Board.

In the light of a PKD participation far beyond fifteen PKD Participants and a working period that in 2010 exceeded the term of the first appointed PKD Board Members the PKD Board developed and in 2010 successfully applied for the first time the Procedure to Determine the PKD Board Composition. The following principles for the PKD Board composition are permanently enforced.

- The highest priority is the efficient and effective PKD operation in terms of active participation in the PKD.
- A priority is the liaison with other parties, including operative PKD based border control, that give important input or feedback.
- A priority is also the equitable geographic representation and the correction of geographic underrepresentation in terms of number of ePassports issued or number of people travelling across borders.

The PKD Board underlined that only those PKD Participants may be represented by a PKD Board Member that without limitation fulfil the requirements of the PKD MoU and in addition take an active role in the day to day work of the PKD Board. The PKD Participants represented by a PKD Board Delegate took the possibility to apply to be represented by a PKD Board Member.

The PKD Board identified transparency as a field of growing importance. An amendment of the Rules of Procedure has been implemented that allows the PKD Board to take action in case of vendor representatives designation as PKD Board Members or PKD Board Delegates. In particular attendance at the PKD Board meetings by vendors and document distribution to vendors will be made transparent.

Conclusion

The year 2010 can be regarded as a year of regular PKD operation that brought back room for strategy considerations of the PKD Board. This necessity on the one hand side resulted from growing PKD participation that required a permanent view upon the administrative arrangements for the daily PKD Board work. On the other hand side a growing number of data in the PKD and the ongoing preparations of the PKD Participants to become active with up- and downloads in the PKD clearly revealed that non-standard conformity of PKD contents must be assigned a high and continuous attention. Ongoing action is required by the concerned PKD Participants.

The contribution of the announced PKD Upload Contents Checks paper to ePassport interoperability, standard conformance and operational checks facilitation cannot be underestimated. More than before the PKD evolves into the fulcrum between ePassport issuance and border control with the complete coverage of the signature validation chain by the PKD as the operational basis.

The ambitious plans of the EU Member States to participate in the PKD in 2010 only partially materialized, but preparations are ongoing and further PKD Participants from the EU side can be expected in the near future. The OSCE contributed to the promotion of the PKD and complemented the various promotion activities of the PKD Board. As a result the 2010 participation growth even exceeded that of 2007 when the PKD MoU came into effect.

Dr. Eckart Brauer
2011 Chairperson
(on behalf of the ICAO PKD Board)

21 February 2011