PKD Board Annual Report 2009

Purpose

Based on and in continuation of the PKD Board Annual Report 2008 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 2009.

PKD Board Meetings

The PKD Board held two ordinary meetings in 2009 (March in Brussels, Belgium / September in Montreal, Canada). In the course of the meeting in March the 2009 Chairperson was elected.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

After a careful and thorough consideration the PKD Board came with the necessary majority to the conclusion that no additional changes of the MoU need to be done in order to handle the question of PKD participation of non-State entities.

Operational Contract

The operation of the PKD in 2009 was based on the operational contract signed between ICAO and Netrust before end of 2008. During 2009 as the first year within a three years validity period the contract has proven to be a solid basis for the smooth and sustained technical operation of the PKD. The financial regulations that were introduced with the operational contract and that are outlined in the Annual Report 2008 were successfully applied.

The operational contract was amended to cover the so called PKD modified approach, i.e. the implementation of the CSCA Master List and CSCA Link Certificate functionality in the PKD.

Master Lists / Link Certificates

On the basis of the operational contract amendment Netrust succeeded in finalising the technical work to implement the PKD modified approach before end of 2009. With that the PKD Participants can now update their whole PKD contents electronically and without any security compromise or limitation. This is possible after a first secure personal contact with ICAO has taken place for the manual import of the self-signed root CSCA Certificate.

The PKD Board decided to publish Master Lists in the PKD. A Master List is a signed list of CSCA Certificates of the PKD Participants. With Master Lists the diplomatic exchange of CSCA Certificates can be reduced significantly. The first Master List was uploaded end of 2009 for public download.

In addition the PKD Interface Specifications, the PKD Test Bench Procedures and other internal technical documents for the PKD Participants have been maintained and updated as necessary.

Participation

In the course of 2009 the new PKD Participants India, Nigeria, Switzerland and Ukraine could be welcomed. Together with Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, Germany, Korea, France, China and Kazakhstan there are sixteen PKD Participants at the end of 2009.

The existing interest in PKD participation remained high. As one measure among others to address the growing need for information a PKD workshop in the margins of the 5th ICAO MRTD Symposium and Exhibition in Montreal was organised. The workshop was attended by nearly 200 experts who received the latest information about the PKD and shared views and experiences with PKD Board representatives.

In 2009 the G8 and the OSCE endorsed participation in the PKD by adopting declarations on ministerial level. The EU in 2009 prepared to take a similar decision. With that there is a good chance that within a medium time frame the number of PKD Participants at least doubles and reaches more than forty. Hence, the still existing gap between the number of ePassport issuing countries and the number of PKD Participants would largely be filled.

Administration

The PKD Board continued to review and redraw important papers like the PKD Board Rules of Procedure, the PKD Board Procedure for the PKD Fee Schedule or the PKD Board Procedure for Handling Operational Complaints. Together with a new paper for Frequently Asked Questions the PKD Board web site was continuously improved.

With the decision to limit the number of PKD Board Members to fifteen the PKD Board preserved its ability to always being able to take a decision even with growing presence of PKD Participants in the PKD Board. However, this does not mean a disadvantage for PKD Participants not represented by Members as the principle of rotation and equal geographic representation applies in case an ICAO Council appointment for a Member expires and the new composition of the PKD Board is determined. Finally the PKD Board underlined the highest priority of the efficient and effective PKD operation.

The PKD logo below was created to support the easy public identification of PKD relevant contents. The PKD workshop in September has been an excellent opportunity to present the PKD logo to a larger audience.

Conclusion

The year 2009 can be regarded as a year of consolidation for the PKD. The operational contract and its sound financial basis, the improved administrative regime of the PKD Board, the institutional support from important political players, the growing participation and a wider than ever recognition underlined the role of the PKD as the means of choice for

enabling the fast and reliable electronic exchange of certificates and revocation lists on a daily basis.

The irrefutable fact that an ePassport only with a complete signature check until the CSCA Certificate can offer its full facilitation potential at international travel is more and more recognized and makes the PKD the logical counterpart of the ePassport. The future perspective and natural consequence of ePassport issuance and application will be participation in the PKD.

Dr. Eckart Brauer
2009 Chairperson
(on behalf of the ICAO PKD Board)

24 February 2010