



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Ministerial Council  
Maastricht 2003**

MC.DEC/7/03  
2 December 2003

Original: ENGLISH

---

**2nd day of the Eleventh Meeting**  
MC(11) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 7/03  
TRAVEL DOCUMENT SECURITY**

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) as a major element of the international legal framework for the fight against terrorism,

Determined to further intensify efforts in the implementation of existing OSCE commitments on combating terrorism, as reflected in the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism, the Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 1 on implementing the OSCE commitments and activities on combating terrorism, and the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism,

Reaffirming its commitment to implement effective and resolute measures against terrorism and to prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls relating to the issuance of identity papers and travel documents,

Acknowledging the important work on this issue done by other international organizations, in particular the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Group of Eight (G8),

Decides:

- That all OSCE participating States should aim to comply fully with the recommended ICAO minimum security standards for the handling and issuance of passports as well as other travel documents by December 2004, pending the availability of the necessary technical and financial resources;
- That all OSCE participating States should begin to issue machine-readable travel documents, if possible with digitized photographs, by December 2005, pending the availability of the necessary technical and financial resources;

- That all OSCE participating States should consider the possibility of providing travel documents with one or more biometric identifiers as soon as technically feasible and after the ICAO biometric standards are adopted;

Encourages participating States with the capability to do so to provide financial and technical assistance in implementing these measures to other participating States that request it;

Tasks the Secretary General with convening in the first quarter of 2004 an expert workshop on implementation of this decision and needs for related assistance.