

Brief of a Presentation by Porvoo co chair Jan van Arkel with the aim of setting up a relationship between the Porvoo group and a Project (under evaluation by the EC) for information exchange and dissemination of data in relation to EU/US Travelling. The Porvoo group would be focussing on the eIDM related issues in this context.

The Porvoo group decided to appoint mr Jan van Arkel as an observer to this project and to report on the progress at the Porvoo 13 meeting of April 2008.

Purpose and contents of the project

The primary purposes of the project are to proactively promote the exchange of information between the EU and US in the areas of justice and home affairs. The Project will engage itself into an open dialogue on three levels: policy, operational and technical. Mutual understanding and trust should be created by giving insights in the parties needs and operational conditions. Also cultural differences, resulting in different approaches for foreign policy, should be discussed. The constitutional differences between the EU and US will be observed and the impact these have on decision making processes. This will result in a better mutual understanding and will lead to a more focussed discussion on common interests and practical cooperation.

The aim is to **collate all relevant material** via both desk research and input from key stakeholders, to **carry out a comparative analysis** of the material and to **disseminate this to a wide audience**. The project considers landborders, seaborders and airports as area's of operation. Operational and environmental conditions of these three area's in Europe and the US are different, as well as the stakeholders involved.

The European Biometric Forum (proposed leader of the project) envisions the following activities:

- Workshops and conferences, using internet based technology i.e. webinars
- Detailed interviews with leading policy making bodies and key stakeholders in both the EU and the US
- Workshops to debate and refine the analysis and define the content of the findings.
- The facilitation of direct discussions between comparable bodies in the EU and US such as Airline/Airport/Port Operators and Authorities and Border Control Agencies with discussion centred on matters affecting travellers including:
 - Security and Anti-Terrorist issues
 - Registered Traveller initiatives and their relative success
 - Border Control including the Ethical issues involved in controlling Illegal Immigration
 - Privacy & Data Protection of travellers information
 - Best Practices in ensuring the timely processing of travellers whilst maintaining an appropriate level of security
 - Specific challenges at blue borders, green borders and airports in achieving harmonized security levels based on common policies.
- Dissemination of the interim analysis of the project at key moments
- The dissemination of a final report through the organisation of a final conference, including a webinar facility. Also a distribution channel will be organised through the project partners and supporters.