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News Release from: **European Biometrics Forum**
 Edited by the Prosecuritytalk Editorial Team on **22 September 2005**

EBF Research Seminar outcome

Proceedings from the EBF Research Seminar held in Brussels on
 15 September 2005

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Presentations from the EBF Research Seminar in Brussels on 15 September are now available in the members section of the website (www.eubiometricsforum.com) under members resources. Just login your username and password in the left hand column. The Seminar, opened by

Jacques Bus from DG Information Society at the European Commission, was entitled 'Research, Security and Technology in Europe: crossing the chasm to success for biometrics' and was co-hosted with the Joint Research Centre.

There are presentations from:

* Ioannis Maghiros, Principal IST Scientific Officer, Joint Research Centre, European Commission.

* Jacques Bus, Head of Unit, ICT for Trust and Security, DG Information Society, European Commission.

* Henning H Arendt, Project Manager, TeleTrust.

* Julian Jones, British Standards Institute, Consumer Policy Committee.

* Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, Director, International Labour Organisation.

* Jean-Marc Suchier, European Programmes Director, Security Division, Sagem.

* Patrice-Emmanuel Schmitz, Senior Consultant, Unisys, Belgium.

* Paul McKeown, Customs, Ports and Border Management Executive, IBM.

* Jurgen Hammerschmitt, Senior Consultant Infineon Technologies.



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* Peter Hanel, Large Scale IT Systems, DG Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission.

* Gunter Schumacher, Project Officer, ICT for Trust and Security, DG Information Society, European Commission.

* Herbert Von Bose, Head of Unit, Preparatory Action for Security Research, DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission.

* Dr Gareth Lewis, Scientific Officer, Joint Research Center, European Commission.

* Tony Mansfield, Principal Research Scientist, National Physical Laboratory.

* Ben A M Schouten, Signals and Images, Centre for Mathematics and Computer Science.

* Behnam Bavarian, VP Advanced Technology and Strategy, Motorola Biometrics Business Unit.

The presidency's follow up of JHA council actions included:

Biometrics:

1 The Council is to prioritise the roll out of biometrics to regions/countries of high risk.

2 Member States are to take a collaborative approach to the provision of biometric capacity to visa issuing posts; discussion will take place at the VISA working group in September.

Actions concerning VIS:

1 The Commission Communication on enhanced interaction between the VIS, SIS II and EURODAC and the Commission proposal for VIS, will be discussed in the relevant working groups during November 2005.

2 The Council is to develop further ability to share visa information via VIS/SIS II, providing for political discussion at October and or December during JHA Council on SIS II.

Specifically:

- The Schengen Acquis working group will continue their work on the three SIS II proposals, with a view of reaching political agreement in some aspects by December 2005, in order for the texts to be adopted by mid 2006.

- Visa working group will continue with the second reading of VIS Regulation in September.

Plans for MS roll out of VIS will be proceeding in parallel, with a view to council conclusions by the end of the year.

ID Cards:

Member States are to agree on common standards for security features and secure issuing procedures for ID cards, due December.

An informal expert meeting to discuss issuing and enrolment procedures is to be held in autumn.

The article 6 committee will be invited to draft the detailed common security standards.

Inter governmental conclusions setting a broad framework for security standards and procedures are to be agreed by the end of the year.

Germany proposes a feasibility study on appropriate methods to register entries and exits of third country nationals at the common borders.

icao: machine-readable and biometric passports:

The International Civil Aviation Authority ICAO has announced that its 188 contracting states must begin issuing MRPs (Machine-readable passports) no later than 1 April 2010.

40 states out of the 110 (including the EU 25) that currently issue MRPs plan to upgrade these to e-passports with biometrics by the end of 2006.

EU member states will start issuing digital image passports in 2006, while the issuing of biometric passports will not be complete until 2018 the earliest.

It is estimated that by 2013 only 50% of the passports will include biometrics, thus severely limiting their use for counter terrorism purposes.

This initiative will lead to the coexistence of two different passport technologies, requiring people visiting the EU from the other 148 states to adapt their documents to biometric standards according to the Visa Information System (VIS).

Currently in the EU there are no uniform standards as to the use of biometric readers.

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