



European Migration Network

Ad-Hoc Query on

Requested by FR EMN NCP on 13th July 2009 the cooperation with Iraq on the issuance of the travel documents.

Compilation produced on 9th March 2010.

Responses from [Austria](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Denmark](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Latvia](#), [Netherlands](#).

Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

1. Background Information







2. Responses¹

		Wider Dissemination?²	<i>In the framework of the negotiation of the PCA with Irak, France would like to have some informations about your cooperation with Irak concerning the issuance of the travel documents (laissez-passer). French authorities meet difficulties on the reference to “competent authorities” to organize interview in the last draft Agreement. Actually, this reference could condition the organization of interview systematically in a prior approval of Iraqi central authorities. This procedure could make difficulties for France, with regard to its detention delays (32 days maximum and 10-11 days on average).</i>
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¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."







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			<p>Anyway, could you tell us if :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - you contact directly the diplomatic and consular representations to organize the interviews or if you sent a request to the central authorities in Bagdad to organize the interview in the consular sections ? - you are satisfied of the cooperation of Irak on issuance of travel documents (rate of issuance, executed removals compared with pronounced removals, difficultes in the practical cooperation...)?
	Austria	No	Austria has no problems with the Iraqi authorities about the issue laissez-passers. Regarding the procedure, the Iraqi embassy was contacted directly, she is responsible for organizing the interviews in consular establishments. Neither of late issuance of documents or other concerns were recognized. However, it is necessary to indicate that (recently), few Iraqis deported from Austria were made..
	Belgium	Yes	
	Bulgaria	No	<p>In Bulgaria the migration authorities contact directly the diplomatic representation of Iraq in Sofia. Firstly we send an official letter to the Embassy with attached photos and filled application forms. Then the Consul comes to the detention centre, makes an interview with the Iraqi citizen and collects the necessary information. Finally within a month period the Embassy provides the Iraqi citizen with a passport.</p> <p>Generally we don't have problems with the practical cooperation with the Embassy. The period of one month for issuing a passport is satisfactory as the maximum length for stay in the detention centre is set to 6 months.</p>
	Cyprus	Yes	
	Czech Republic	Yes	
	Denmark	No	<p>The Danish National Commissioner's Office – who is the responsible authority for carrying out enforced returns – has a well-functioning practical cooperation with the Iraqi embassy in Copenhagen on issuance of travel documents as well as on assisting on identification of Iraqi nationals.</p> <p>However, in the majority of the cases regarding forced return to Iraq the Danish National Commissioner's Office will <u>not</u> be in contact with the Iraqi embassy. Instead, the Danish National Commissioner's Office will issue an EU laissez-passer that allows the person to travel to Iraq assisted by the Danish police.</p> <p>As you might know, Denmark has signed a readmission agreement with Iraq. The agreement sets timely and efficient procedure of identification, safe and organised return of persons not meeting the conditions of entry and stay in the territory of Denmark.</p> <p>Furthermore, even prior to the readmission agreement forced returns to Iraq have been possible on a case by case basis. Forced returns has been carried out to Northern Iraq (the three provinces Erbil, Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah) since May 2007 for criminal</p>

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			Iraqis and since August 2008 for non-criminal rejected asylum seekers. Since May 2008 it has also been possible to carry out forced returns to Central and Southern Iraq of Iraqi nationals who have been convicted of serious crimes and received an expulsion order to leave Denmark.
	Estonia	Yes	
	Finland	No	A) Finnish Aliens police contact directly the diplomatic and consular representations. B) No opinion on this can be given owing to few cases -the practise is yet to take its form.
	France	No	thinking is underway and discussions with the Iraqi authorities on how to return to Iraq.
	Germany	No	currently we don't organise any returns to Central Iraq and therefore we don't need Laissez Passers from Central Iraqi authorities. Other returns to the Northern parts are carried out with EU-Laissez Passer. Generally, there are good contacts to the diplomatic missions in Germany. But these contacts are only in connection with interviews to check whether a person actually is Iraqi or not. Interviews for identification of a person in the context of a return are not carried out.
	Greece	Yes	
	Hungary	Yes	
	Ireland	Yes	
	Italy	Yes	
	Latvia	No	<i>State Border Guard of the Republic of Latvia informs the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia on detention of the national of Iraq, which further informs the Embassy of Iraq in Russia (Moscow). Interviews and travel documents are requested also through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Embassy of Iraq in Russia. Latvia has a good cooperation with the Embassy of Iraq in Russia in the matters of organizing interviews and acquisition of travel documents.</i>
	Lithuania	Yes	
	Luxembourg	Yes	
	Malta	Yes	
	Netherlands	No	The Repatriation and Departure Service contacts the Iraqi Embassy in the Hague with the request to conduct an interview in order to determine the Iraqi nationality of the person concerned. Once the Iraqi nationality has been established by the consul, the repatriation is conducted using a EU travel letter. The cooperation of the Embassy is satisfactory.

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	Poland	Yes	
	Portugal	Yes	
	Romania	Yes	
	Slovak Republic	Yes	
	Slovenia	Yes	
	Spain	Yes	
	Sweden	Yes	
	United Kingdom	Yes	not affected by this query.
