



European Migration Network

Ad-Hoc Query on Travel Document (Convention of 28th July 1951)

Requested by PT EMN NCP on 23rd April 2010

Compilation produced on 24th May 2010

Responses from [Belgium](#), [Cyprus](#), [Finland](#), [Germany](#), [Hungary](#), [Italy](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Netherlands](#), [Portugal](#), [Slovak Republic](#), [Slovenia](#), [Sweden](#), [United Kingdom](#) (13 in Total)

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

The Asylum Department of the Immigration and Borders Service would like to know about some procedures done in page 4 of the Travel Document for Refugees (under the Geneva Convention of 1951), page about the field description of the holder.

2. Responses¹














		Wider Dissemination? ²	For the fill in of a travel document for refugees, issued under the Geneva Convention of 1951, we would like to know whether other member states fill in the field description of the holder (page 4 of the document), or if instead the page is disabled?
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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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	Austria	Yes	
	Belgium	Yes	No, "description of the holder" (height, hair, colour of eyes, nose, shape of face,...) has long ago been removed from the travel document. The only data that describe a person are: picture and signature. Fingerprints will be included in the near future. Link to sample of this document: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/prado/NL/4132/docHome.html
	Bulgaria	Yes	
	Cyprus	Yes	The travel document for refugees is the same type of form as the Annex in the Geneva Convention for Refugees of 1951, therefore the field description of the holder is filled in every case.
	Czech Republic	Yes	
	Denmark	Yes	
	Estonia	Yes	
	Finland	Yes	In Finland, page 4 of the Travel Document for Refugees is left empty (disabled). If the identity of the holder is unconfirmed it is mentioned on page 3 of the Travel Document for Refugees.
	France	Yes	
	Germany	Yes	The German travel document for refugees contains the picture of the person to whom the travel document has been issued and his/her signature. Furthermore only the following data is recorded in such a document (Section 4, paragraph 2, German Ordinance governing residence): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. family name and, if applicable, name at birth, 2. the first name(s), 3. doctor's degree, 4. day and place of birth, 5. sex, 6. height, 7. colour of the eyes, 8. place of residence, 9. nationality.
	Greece	Yes	
	Hungary	Yes	Yes, Hungary fills in the description field with a typewriter (height, hair colour, eye colour, nose, shape of face, complexion, special peculiarities, place and date of birth, occupation, present residence). Without the filling in of this part, the travel document for refugees issued under the Geneva Convention of 1951 is not valid. These fields are found on page 2 of the travel document as page 4 stipulates the countries where the travel document is valid, the relevant legal regulation on the basis of which the travel document was issued, the date, the place and the fee of the issuance of the travel document.
	Ireland	Yes	

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	Italy	Yes	The travel document for refugees is issued by Police headquarters (so called Questure). Generally the Questures fill the description field (page 4) on features in relation to height, hair, eye color, while as regards nose, face and skin color is inserted "see photo".
	Latvia	Yes	The new sample of Travel document for refugee contains the information about person's height. The other information listed in the description of the holder of the Travel document for Refugees (under the Geneva Convention of 1951) is not included.
	Lithuania	Yes	There is no description of the holder in travel document (Convention of 28 July 1951) issued by the Republic of Lithuania.
	Luxembourg	Yes	
	Malta	Yes	
	Netherlands	Yes	The description fields on colour of hair and eyes are no longer used in the Travel Document. Only length as a description field is still being used.
	Poland	Yes	
	Portugal	Yes	Portugal has been filling the description field (page 4 of the document), but we are considering the failure of the page because we are analysing whether this requirement is updated.
	Romania	Yes	
	Slovak Republic	Yes	According to the Act on Stay of Aliens No. 48/2002 Coll. to a person to whom an asylum was granted a travel document for foreigners is issued. While issuing this travel document the part on the description of the foreigner (i.e. page 4) is not filled. Personal data of the holder are provided on the page of the document with biometric data (name, surname, nationality, date of birth, place of birth, gender, signature, and photography).
	Slovenia	Yes	Travel document for refugees which is used in Republic of Slovenia has fields for the description of the holder on page 2 (height, hair colour, eyes colour, nose, shape of the face, skin colour, special marks). Those descriptions are disabled when a travel document is being personalized.
	Spain	Yes	
	Sweden	Yes	Sweden issues an ICAO compliant machine readable and biometric Travel Document (Convention 28th July 1951) that does not contain this "description".
	United Kingdom	Yes	The UK stopped including a physical description in documents when we moved to scanned digital images in 1996.
