

In Focus – Digitalising Travel Documents

- The European Commission considers to take action to promote the use of digital travel documents on top of existing physical documents e.g. passports and identity cards.
- At this early stage of legislation DG Home will take a decision which policy option to adopt. In consideration are a spectrum of actions which range from voluntary co-operation to new mandatory EU wide digital documents..
- Current consultation process will end in June 2023.

Highly welcome & urgently needed

- For business travellers the use of digital travel documents has become a welcome form factor, e.g. boarding passes for air or rail traffic.
- Digitalising officially required paper documents like passports, identity cards, visa, vaccination certificates and others will be a welcome development and will ease cross-border travel.

Our asks

1. Opt for an ambitious implementation of digital travel documents, either by making the digitalising of travel documents mandatory or by creating a new mandatory digital travel document
2. Start with the Schengen area in scope, but plan for a EU-wide adoption at a later stage.
3. Start with cross-border traffic within the EU, yet be open for international travel into other countries and from other countries into the EU.
4. Be quick and pragmatic in implementation. Make digital documents a mandatory option, but allow for States to require paper documents as fall-back initially.
5. Passports and identity cards are not always the only paper documents required for cross-border travel. Digitalise all required paper documents e.g. vaccination certificates or visa.



Business Travel in Europe

- 2 million institutions send business travelers on the road (companies, public administration, NGO)
- 22 million business travelers
- 166 million business trips
- €54 billion spent
- Estimates for 2021