

GISAD statement on <u>https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initia-tives/13514-Travel-digitalising-travel-documents-to-make-travelling-easier_en</u>.

GISAD (Global Institute for Structure relevance, Anonymity and Decentralisation i.G.) is an institute in founding. GISAD wants to develop a digital system (EU-D-S) from the perspective of the citizens of Europe, which can hold its own in system competition with gatekeepers and a social credit system.

The aim of GISAD is to support the creation of a holistic Marshall Plan, as called for by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. The core of the Marshall Plan must be a digital concept adapted to civil rights and diversity. If individual measures are taken without an overall system of their own, Europe runs the risk of losing the system competition to other economic areas such as a centrally controlled China.

• GISAD's opinion is subject to the proviso that it is to be as part of an overall digital concept understood (multiple use of the same infrastructure without additional costs).

GISAD has defined three goals on which a Marshall Plan should focus:

- 1. The optimal refinement and simple exploitation of digital data, while maintaining diversity and performance-adopted involvement of all parties involved in the value creation.
- 2. The stigma-free, lifelong digital inclusion of all citizens with incentives for self-development.
- 3. The digital guarantee of the necessary state tasks to maintain security for citizens, the economy and the state, while preserving pre-digital democratic achievements.

Challenges:

GISAD welcomes the initiative of the EU Commission to facilitate travel through the digitalisation of travel documents. In view of the need to create a digital counter-concept for democratic states to the Chinese Social Credit System and comparable systems, GISAD does not consider the fundamental introduction of an eID to be sensible. It should be reserved for important legal transactions such as contracts. The eID offers the danger of total surveillance without achieving the increase in security for European citizens desired through digitalisation. In an increasing bloc of autocracies on the one hand and democracies on the other, the danger posed by entrants from autocracies will increase. Digital travel documents should be uniform for as many travellers as possible to ensure a smooth process. The authorisation to travel against the background of the country of origin and the possibility of a clear identity check must be ensured. For this purpose, however, it is not necessary to deposit personal data online. In the EU-D-S, these can be assigned to a unique but WAN (WIDE AREA NETWORK) anonymous identifier on a decentralised basis in individual cases and after judicial review. Preparatory steps can be taken to assess the eligibility of travellers from outside the catchment area of the EU-D-S so that these travellers can also be processed digitally quickly.

GISAD has already produced over 90 opinions on EU initiatives, such as the digital compass, https://gisad.eu/en-policy-programme-digital-decade-compass/ and https://gisad.eu/en-eu-initiative-travel-better-protection-for-passengers-and-their-rights/.

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Against this background, GISAD proposes the following measures:

- Introduction of the EU-D-S with the establishment of one cooperative for each of the 24 EU and other language areas.
- Introduction of a Digital Union in which democratic countries can easily become members as a first step towards full EU membership.
- Introduction of trust stations in all regions of the Digital Union, via which the anonymity existing in the WAN can be lifted by assigning it to the data stored here in individual cases and after a court order.
- Introduce a sponsor-partner concept, whereby citizens of the Digital Union can sponsor citizens from outside the Union. The partners do not receive the same rights as the sponsor but can share certain functions of the EU-D-S if supervised by the sponsor. One such function could be a partner's digital entry document, which must be approved by the sponsor. Participation in the sponsor-partner concept is voluntary for the partner and dependent on him finding a sponsor. The advantage for him/her may be easier visa issuance and faster clearance when travelling.

