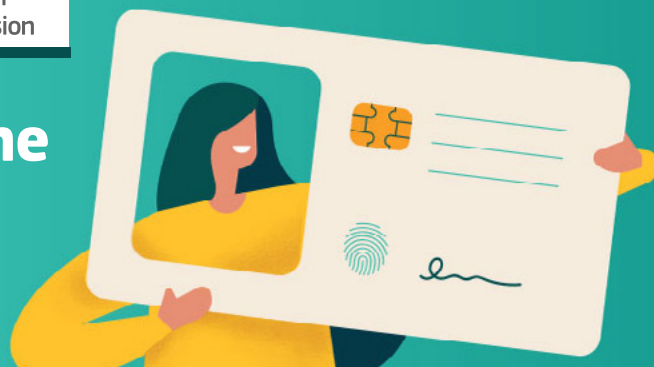




What will change with the new rules on ID cards?



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Strengthening and aligning the security features of ID cards will prevent terrorists and criminals from forging ID cards, allowing authorities to better fight against terrorism and organised crime. Member States will have ample time to adapt their ID cards to the new rules, and the majority of existing ID cards will be phased out by the time they need to be renewed.



More secure ID cards means...

- National ID cards must have a contactless chip and be made of solid plastic instead of paper.
- The highly secure chip must include a facial image and two fingerprints, which is the most reliable way to verify the identity of a person and the authenticity of a travel document.
- Increased protection for citizens against falsification, copy, fraud and misuse of their documents.
- Easier checks resulting in faster and more efficient border controls, for example in airports.
- New ID cards will be valid for a maximum of ten years to take into account changes to the facial image and future security developments. ID cards issued to persons aged 70 and above may be valid for more than ten years.
- Old and not sufficiently secure ID cards currently in use will have to be replaced to eliminate security gaps.



More secure ID cards does **NOT** mean...

- Compulsory ID cards. Member States that don't have ID cards for their citizens are not obliged to introduce them. Member States can decide whether the holding of an ID card is voluntary or compulsory.
- That anyone can access your data. Only authorised staff will be able to access information for security purposes and the chip will be encrypted using modern technologies already used to protect passports.
- Groundbreaking changes. Biometric identifiers, such as facial images and fingerprints, are already included in EU passports.

Next steps:

- Member States will have two years to adapt the features of their ID cards to the new rules.
- Not sufficiently secure ID cards currently in circulation (for example paper-based ID cards) will have to be replaced within five years as of the start of the new rules (that means, within seven years as of today).
- Relatively secure ID cards currently in circulation (for example machine-readable plastic cards) will have to be replaced by new ID Cards within ten years as of the start of the new rules (that means, within twelve years as of today).
- Relatively secure ID cards of persons aged 70 and above are not affected by the phasing-out periods and will be replaced when they expire.

