

First transatlantic "fast lane" programme between Amsterdam Airport Schiphol and US Airports

Netherlands and US open up their biometric border passage for each others citizens



Press Release

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, 19 May 2008

Today, at Terminal 4 JFK Airport in New York, the Dutch Ministry of Justice and the US Department of Homeland Security signed a joint statement that makes it possible for Dutch and American citizens to cross the borders of the Netherlands and US by automated border passage. It is the first transatlantic "fast lane" program in this field.

During a one year trial, passengers from both countries will have the opportunity to use automated facilities pass quickly through both American and Dutch border controls. The trial is for passengers holding Dutch or American nationalities. Other countries will be invited to participate in this international initiative at a later stage.

The International Expedited Traveler (IET) Program is an Initiative of the Dutch and American Governments, which links Schiphol Group's Privium program with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Global Entry program. The program will be executed in the Netherlands by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND), the Dutch Border Police (*Koninklijke Marechaussee*), and Dartagnan (a wholly owned subsidiary of Schiphol Group).

Privium is Schiphol Group's membership programme that allows members to pass through automated border controls, quickly and safely by means of iris verification. Privium has been operating for 7 years and currently has more than 42,000 members. CBP recently launched the Global Entry program to allow U.S. nationals and lawful permanent residents fast and automated passage through U.S. border controls.

Three American airports are participating in the trial: John F Kennedy International Airport New York; George Bush International Airport in Houston Texas and Washington Dulles International Airport Sterling Virginia. Other American airports will join at a later date. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is the first airport in Europe to participate in the trial, which starts at the end of 2008, beginning 2009.

Fast-lane trial (IET) – how it works

Passengers with American or Dutch citizenship may participate by single application for IET membership. Both the American and Dutch authorities will perform a background check on the applicant. The entry requirements are strict. Should the applicant have, for example, a criminal record, the application will be denied.

Approved applicants will become members of both the Privium and Global Entry programs.

Upon arrival at, or departure from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, IET members will utilise the Privium facilities including their Privium card and iris recognition to pass through automated Dutch border controls.

IET members will use their Global Entry membership privileges to pass through U.S. border controls. Global Entry members can make use of the fast-routes to special kiosks where the machine readable zone (MRZ) in their passport is read and members present their fingerprints for scanning and checking against details held in a secure Government database.

The initial IET trial is considered to offer advantages to airports, travelers and the border control authorities. The goal of the IET Initiative is to enhance quality, speed and safety of passengers travelling between the United States and the Netherlands (and the European Union) and to improve customer satisfaction.

The joined statement was signed by Mr. Gert Versluis, Deputy General Director of the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service and Mr. Jayson P. Ahern, deputy Commissioner of the United States Customs and Border Protection.

JFKIAT

Terminal 4 is the international air terminal at JFK Airport, New York. Schiphol USA has a 40% interest in the joint venture with John F Kennedy International Airport that operates Terminal 4.

Dartagnan

Dartagnan is a registered traveler service provider specialised in design, implementation and operation of biometrically enabled border control and registered traveler (RT) programs. Dartagnan is a 100% subsidiary company of Schiphol Group

Privium

Privium is the Amsterdam Airport Schiphol operated frequent traveler membership program offering benefits such as privileged parking, preferential check-in and of course, automated border passage via iris recognition technology.