How should I examine a document?

When examining any document it is important to first assess the security features contained within it.
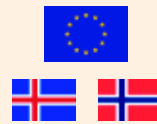
In **PRADO**, you will find descriptions of the most important security features of documents, like watermarks, security threads, page and photo integration, and so on. These security features can relatively easily be checked, if you know what they should look like, by **"FEEL, LOOK, TILT"**.

- First always check for impersonation. Carefully compare the image to the holder. Also check age, height and signature.

- Special printing makes the ink feel raised or thicker. To feel raised intaglio print, run your finger over it or scratch it gently with your fingernail.

- Watermark and see-through-register: Hold the document against the light.

- Check micro- and miniprint with a magnifying glass.

- Check UV features if you have a UV light available.

Contact

You can find useful contact information online in **PRADO** under "Identity & Travel Documents – National Contact Points". (6)

PRADO is hosted by the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union (GSC), General Directorate for Justice and Home Affairs (DG H 1 A).

The selected information in **PRADO** is provided by document experts from Member States of the European Union, Iceland and Norway.

The technical implementation and maintenance of **PRADO** is performed by the GSC - DG A 5.

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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Public Register of Authentic Identity and Travel Documents Online

Do you have to check identity documents?

PRADO provides easy access to official information on security features of many documents

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/prado

What is PRADO?

PRADO is a public multilingual site containing information on security features of authentic identity and travel documents, visas and stamps.
PRADO contains images and summary information on some of the most commonly used documents of the Member States of the European Union and also of some third countries.

Who should use PRADO?

The general public, including governmental and non-governmental organisations, e.g.:

- Employers
- Postal services
- Banks and credit institutions
- Security companies
- Vehicle hire agencies
- Notaries

Why?

- Undetected identity fraud is dangerous and expensive.
- Legal obligations to check identity will increase.

Key Features

Highest quality and reliability

- **FADO** (**F**alse and **A**uthentic **D**ocuments **O**nline) is a classified restricted system for the exchange of information between document experts on travel and identity documents, established pursuant to the Council Joint Action 98/700/JHA. Part of the information on authentic documents contained in **FADO** is released to the public via the **PRADO** system. **PRADO** contains information on selected security features of travel and identity documents. This information is made available on the website of the Council of the European Union.

- **PRADO** is regularly updated with information taken from the steadily growing **FADO** database.

- Each document is validated for correctness by document experts all over Europe.

- High quality translations are performed by specialised translators.

- Information on new authentic documents is visible in **PRADO** the day after they are accepted in **FADO**. (1)

Multilingual - available in 22 languages (2)

- The **PRADO** website is available in 22 official languages of the EU.

User friendly – easy navigation

Find documents easily either by issuing country or by title. (3)

Useful features

- Zooming functionality. (4)
- Illustrated explanations of expert terms. (5)

Direct access

Direct access to **PRADO** is available on the Internet at **http://www.consilium.europa.eu/prado**

Mobile

Optimised navigation and display for PDAs with XHTML and CSS support.