

DECISION No S2
of 12 June 2009
concerning the technical specifications of the European Health Insurance Card
(Text of relevance to the EEA and to the EC/Switzerland Agreement)
(2010/C 106/09)

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR THE COORDINATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS,

Having regard to Article 72(a) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the coordination of social security systems ⁽¹⁾, under which the Administrative Commission is responsible for dealing with all administrative questions or questions of interpretation arising from the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 and Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the co-ordination of social security systems ⁽²⁾.

Having regard to the Administrative Commission Decision No S1 of 12 June 2009 concerning the European Health Insurance Card ⁽³⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to facilitate the acceptance and the reimbursement of the costs of benefits in kind provided on the basis of a European Health Insurance Card, it is necessary for the three main parties concerned, namely the insured person, the health care providers and the institutions, to recognise easily and accept the European Health Insurance Card in conformity with a single model and uniform specifications.
- (2) The information which must be visible on the European Health Insurance Card is defined in point 7 of Decision No S1. The introduction of a European Health Insurance Card with visible data is the first stage of a process leading to the use of an electronic medium proving

entitlement to benefits in kind during a temporary stay in a Member State other than the competent one or the State of residence. Consequently, the competent institutions of the Member States wishing to do so may incorporate on an electronic medium, such as a microchip or magnetic strip, from the initial stage onwards, the data referred to in this recital.

- (3) When exceptional circumstances prevent the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card, a provisional replacement certificate in accordance with a uniform model shall be issued,

Acting in accordance with the conditions laid down in Article 71(2) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The design and specifications of the European Health Insurance Card shall be established in accordance with Annex I to this Decision.
2. The model of the provisional replacement certificate shall be established in accordance with Annex II to this Decision.
3. This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. It shall apply from the date of entry into force of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009.

The Chair of the Administrative Commission
Gabriela PIKOROVÁ

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 166, 30.4.2004, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 284, 30.10.2009, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ See page 23 of this Official Journal.

ANNEX I

Technical provisions concerning the design of the European Health Insurance Card

1. INTRODUCTION

In compliance with the related Decisions of the Administrative Commission for the Coordination of Social Security Systems, the European Health Insurance Card provides a minimum set of ‘eye-readable’ data to be used in a Member State other than the Member State of insurance or residence for:

- Identifying the insured person, the competent institution and the card
- Stating the entitlement to receive care during a temporary stay in another Member State.

The models shown below are based on the technical specifications defined in this document but are to be considered for illustration purposes only.



Figure 1
Example for the front side



Figure 2
Example for the reverse side

While the ordering of the eye-readable data is identical in both models, i.e. irrespective of the side used by the European health insurance card, a different structure has been defined for the front and the reverse side. This is the result of a compromise between the required unique model for the European card and the structural differences of both sides while retaining the overall style between the front and the back of the card.

2. NORMATIVE REFERENCE

Reference	Document Title/Description	Issuing date
ISO 3166-1	Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions – Part 1: Country codes	1997
ISO/IEC 7810	Identification cards – Physical characteristics	1995
ISO/IEC 7816	Identification cards – Integrated circuit(s) cards with contacts	
	Part 1: Physical characteristics	1998
	Part 2: Dimension and location of the contacts	1999
ISO 8859 series	8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets	1998
	Part 1 – 4: Latin alphabet Nos 1 to 4	
EN 1867	Machine readable cards – Health care application – Numbering system and registration procedure for issuer identifiers	1997

3. SPECIFICATIONS

3.1. Definitions

The front side is the side on which the microprocessor (if any) is embedded. The reverse side is the side on which the magnetic strip (if any) is attached. If there is neither a microprocessor nor a magnetic strip, the front side of the card will be the side on which the information outlined in this document is presented.

3.2. Overall structure

The format of the European health insurance card complies with the ID-1 format (53,98 mm high, 85,60 mm wide and 0,76 mm thick). However, if the European health insurance card takes the form of a sticker to be applied on the reverse side of a national card, the ID-1 thickness criterion will not apply.

3.2.1. *European health insurance card: front side of the card*

The background is divided into two parts by an axis vertically splitting the card area into Part 1 on the left (53 mm wide) and Part 2 on the right.

4 placeholders are positioned thanks to a set of guiding lines:

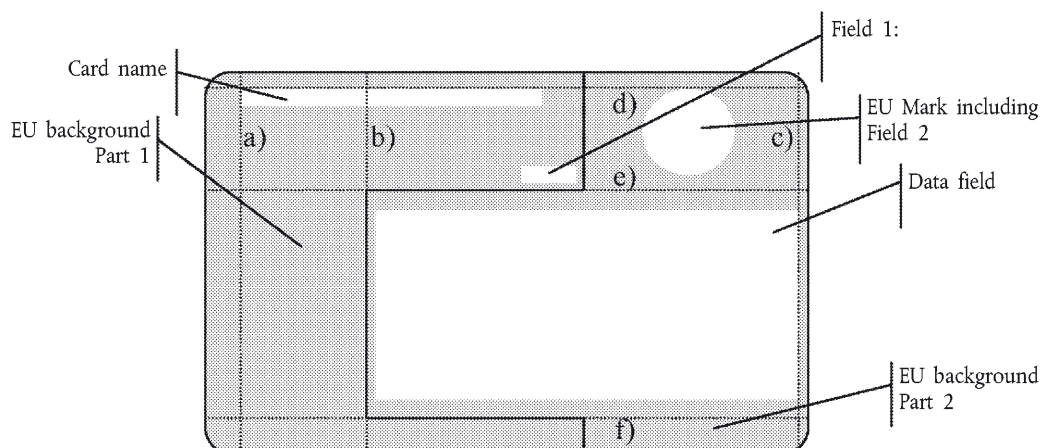
— 3 vertical guiding lines

- a) at 5 mm from the left edge of the card,
- b) at 21,5 mm from the left edge of the card,
- c) at 1 mm from the right edge of the card;

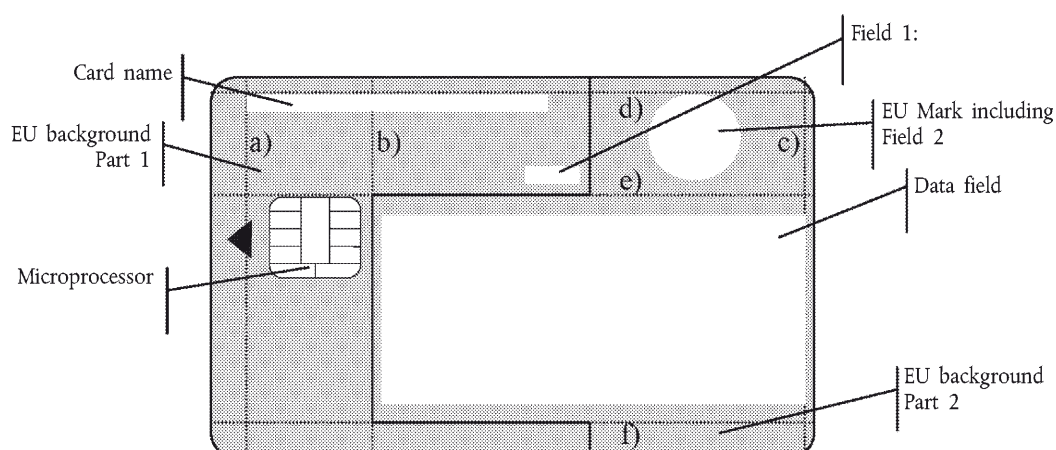
— 3 horizontal guiding lines

- d) at 2 mm from the top edge of the card,
- e) at 17 mm from the top edge of the card,
- f) at 5 mm from the bottom edge of the card.

(a) Card without chip



(b) Chip card



3.2.2. European Health Insurance Card: reverse side of the card

The background is divided by an axis splitting the card area horizontally into two parts of equal size. Part 1 is the top part and Part 2 the bottom part.

5 placeholders are positioned thanks to a set of guiding lines:

— Symmetrically

g) at 9 mm from the left edge of the card,

h) in the middle of the card,

i) at 9 mm from the right edge of the card.

— Vertically

j) at 3 mm from the left edge of the card,

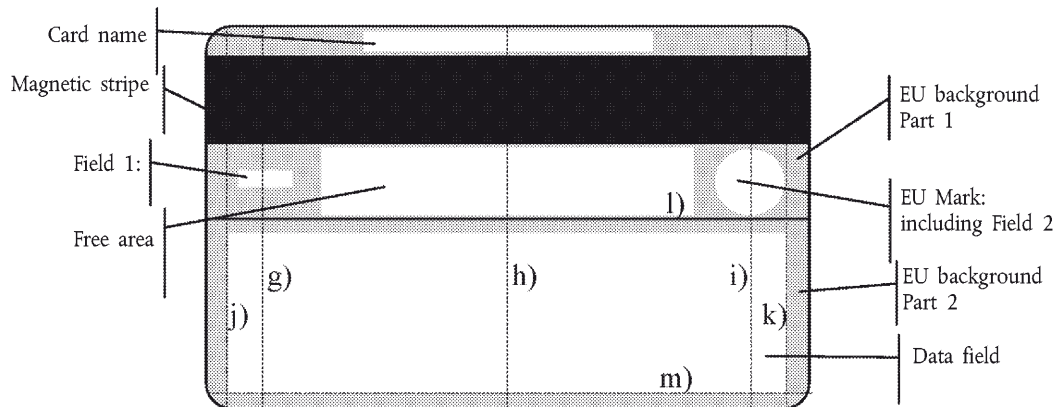
k) at 3 mm from the right edge of the card;

— Horizontally

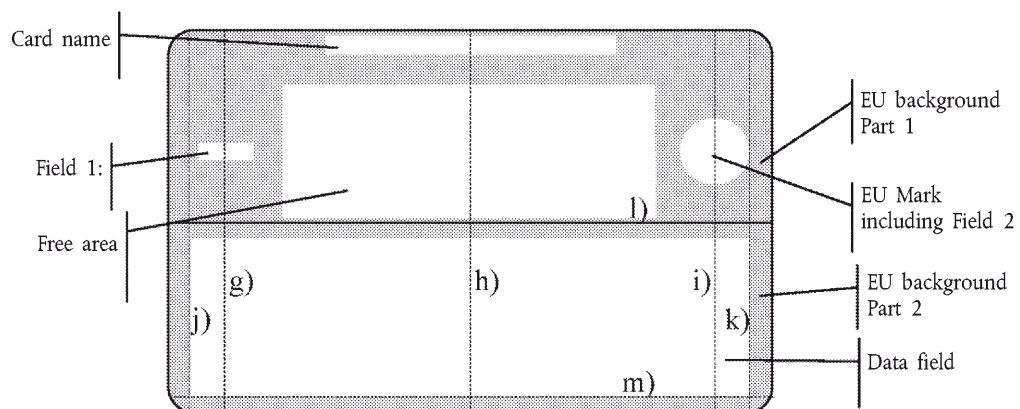
l) in the middle of the card,

m) at 2 mm from the bottom edge of the card

(c) With magnetic strip



(d) Without magnetic strip



3.3. Background and graphical elements

3.3.1. Colours of the background

The colour scheme of the background is as follows ⁽¹⁾:

— Part 1 is dark blue mixed with purple ⁽²⁾,

— Part 2 is one tone of grey/blue ⁽³⁾ which shades slightly darker from the middle to the sides of the card,

— The data field is made up of white stripes to be used as background for each of the individual data lines (see below).

⁽¹⁾ The technical details of the colour scheme are available on request to the Secretariat of the Administrative Commission. They will be provided in the appropriate format according to the best practices in the professional printing sector (i.e. as a Quark Xpress file. The colour scheme is 4 colours CMYK and all images are in TIFF format).

⁽²⁾ The CMYK references for this colour are C78 M65 Y21 K7.

⁽³⁾ The CMYK references for the grey are C33 M21 Y13 K1 and the blue C64 M46 Y16 K2.

A shading effect has been used on part 2 and the data field to create an illusion of relief, with the light coming from the top left corner of the card.

The free area is in the same colour as either Part 2 (without the shading effect) or the data field.

3.3.2. *European mark*

The European mark is made up of the European stars coloured in white:

- When on the front side of the card, it has a diameter of 15 mm and is positioned vertically below the guiding line 'd' and horizontally centred in part 2 of the background;
- When on the reverse side of the card, it has a diameter of 10 mm and is positioned symmetrically along the vertical axis 'i' and aligned centrally with the free area.

An alternative mark will be used for countries where a European card is to be issued but which are not members of the European Union.

3.3.3. *Data field*

The data field area is made up of white data stripes (5 when on the front side and 4 when on the reverse side) 4 mm high with inter-spaces of 2 mm:

- When on the front side of the card, the data field is centrally located between the vertical guiding lines 'b' and 'c' and the horizontal lines 'e' and 'f';
- When on the reverse side of the card, the data field is symmetrically located along the 'h' vertical axis and between the vertical guiding lines 'j' and 'k' and above the horizontal line 'm'.

3.3.4. *Free area*

The free area is an area located on the reverse side of the European card and available for national purposes. It can be used e.g. as a signature strip or for providing any text, logo or other marking. The content of this area has however no legal value but an informational value only.

This area is positioned as follows:

- When the European card is implemented on the front side of a card, the reverse side is a free area, without any specifications.
- When the European card is implemented on the reverse side of another card, a free area, without any specifications other than its dimension, remains available on the reverse side of the card (10 mm high and 52 mm wide). It is symmetrically located along the 'h' vertical axis and centred in the area between the magnetic stripe and the data field areas. It can be used by the card issuer to place an authentication signature stripe or text.
- When there is no magnetic strip, the free area is 20 mm high instead of 10 mm.

3.4. **Predefined data elements**

3.4.1. *Card name*

Field Name	Card name
Description	The common name of the card as decided by the Administrative Commission in Decision No 190.
Position	When on the front side, below the horizontal guiding line 'd', and on the right of the vertical guiding line 'a', When on the reverse side, symmetrically located along the 'h' vertical axis and centred in the area between the magnetic stripe and the top edge of the card

Field Name	Card name
Values	The value 'European health insurance card' is written in a European Union official language.
Format	Font 'Verdana True Type' or equivalent, in capital and regular style, 7 point size when on the front side and 6 point size when on the reverse side, white, with character width compressed to 90 % of normal size and 'normal' position and spacing of characters.
Length	40 characters
Remark	The precise wording of the name in the language of the issuing Member State is a Member State responsibility only.

3.4.2. *Caption*

Field Name	Caption
Description	The caption identifies the meaning of a data field.
Position	On the top of each of the personal data fields Left alignment for the captions on the left side of the card and right alignment for the captions on the right side of the card.
Values	The values are written in a European Union official language and are set as follows (using English as the base text): 1. (no caption for the form identifier) 2. (no caption for the issuing Member State code number) 3. Name 4. Given names 5. Date of birth 6. Personal identification number 7. Identification number of the institution 8. Identification number of the card 9. Expiry date
Format	Font 'Verdana True Type' or equivalent, in regular style, 5 point size, white, with character width compressed to 90 % of normal size and 'normal' position and spacing of characters. Line spacing of 2 points plus character size.
Length	As needed by each of the above fixed values
Remark	Each caption is unambiguously identified by a number, in order to allow card superposition in different languages. The precise wording of the caption values in the language of the issuing Member State is a Member State responsibility only.

3.4.3. *Issuing state*

Field Name	Issuing state ID number
Description	Identification code of the card issuer's state.
Position	Field 2: Centrally positioned within the European mark with a white square 4 mm high and 4 mm wide.
Values	The 2 digit ISO country code (ISO 3166-1)

Field Name	Issuing state ID number
Format	Font 'Verdana True Type' or equivalent, in capital and regular style, 7 point size, black, with character width compressed to 90 % of normal size and 'normal' position and spacing of characters.
Length	2 characters.
Remark	The code 'UK' will be used instead of 'GB', the standard ISO code for United Kingdom. One single code will be used for each Member State.

3.5. Personal data elements

The personal data elements have the following common characteristics:

- Compliance with EN 1387 with regard to the character set: Latin alphabet Nos 1-4 (ISO 8859-1 to 4))
- If there is a need to abbreviate elements due to the limited number of spaces, this must be indicated by a full stop.

Data will be laser or thermal-transfer printed or engraved but not embossed.

Each data element will be placed in the data field according to the schemes below.

```

3. Name
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCDEFGHIJKLMN
4. Given names
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCDEFGHI
5. Date of birth
DD/MM/YYYY
6. Personal identification number
12345678901234567890
7. Identification number of the institution
1234567890 - ABCDEFGHIJKLMNO
8. Identification number of the card
12345678901234567890
9. Expiry date
DD/MM/YYYY

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Figure 3

Front side model for the data field

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3. Name
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCDEFGHIJKLMN
4. Given names
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCDEFGHI
5. Date of birth
DD/MM/YYYY
6. Personal identification number
12345678901234567890
7. Identification number of the institution
1234567890 - ABCDEFGHIJKLMNO
8. Identification number of the card
12345678901234567890
9. Expiry date
DD/MM/YYYY

```

Figure 4

Reverse side model for the data field

3.5.1. Blank Space (former form identifier)

Field Name	Blank Space
Description	
Position	Field 1: — When on the front side, below the horizontal guiding line 'd', and on the left of the vertical guiding line 'c', — When on the reverse side, symmetrically located along the 'g' vertical axis and aligned centrally with the free area In both situations, it is positioned within a white rectangle 4 mm high and 10 mm wide.

3.5.2. Card holder related data elements

Note that the card holder may not be the insured person but a beneficiary as the card is individual.

Field Name	Name of card holder
Description	The surname of the card holder as used in the issuing Member State
Position	Field 3
Values	—
Format	Font 'Verdana True Type' or equivalent, in capital and regular style, 7 point size, black, with character width compressed to 90 % of normal size and 'normal' position and spacing of characters. Aligned to the left border. Line spacing of 3 points plus character size
Length	Up to 40 characters
Remark	The surname field may include titles, prefix or any other name supplement or prefix.

Field Name	Given name(s) or middle name(s) of card holder
Description	The first (and middle) name(s) of the card holder as used in the issuing Member State.
Position	Field 4
Values	—
Format	Font 'Verdana True Type' or equivalent, in capital and regular style, 7 point size, black, character width compressed to 90 % of normal size and 'normal' position and spacing of characters. Aligned to the left side. Line spacing of 3 points plus character size
Length	Up to 35 characters
Remark	The given name field may include initial(s)

Field Name	Date of birth
Description	The date of birth of the card holder as used in the issuing Member State
Position	Field 5
Values	DD/MM/YYYY, where D stands for Day, M for Month and Y for Year
Format	Font 'Verdana True Type' or equivalent, in regular style, 7 point size, black, character width compressed to 90 % of normal size and 'normal' position and spacing of characters. Aligned to the left side when on the front side of the card, but to the right when on the reverse one. Line spacing of 3 points plus character size
Length	10 characters, including a slash between each group.
Remark	—

Field Name	Personal identification number of card holder
Description	The personal identification number detail used by the issuing Member State.
Position	Field 6
Values	See applicable Personal identification number
Format	Font 'Verdana True Type' or equivalent, in regular style, 7 point size, black, with character width compressed to 90 % of normal size and 'normal' position and spacing of characters. Aligned to the right border when on the front side of the card, but to the left when on the reverse one. Line spacing of 3 points plus character size
Length	Up to 20 characters for the ID code.
Remark	The personal identification number of the card holder or, when no such number exists, the number of the insured person from whom the rights of the card holder derive. Personal attributes, such as gender, status of family member, cannot be assigned a dedicated field on the card. They can, however, be included within the personal identification number.

3.5.3. Competent institution related data elements

Field Name	Name of the institution
Description	The 'institution' is the competent institution of insurance.
Position	Field 7, part 1
Values	The acronym of the institution is provided instead of the full name.
Format	Font 'Verdana True Type' or equivalent, in capital and regular style, 7 point size, black, with character width compressed to 90 % of normal size and 'normal' position and spacing of characters. Field 7 is aligned to the right border and Part 1 is to the right of Part 2. Line spacing of 3 points plus character size.
Length	Up to 15 characters Two spaces and a hyphen will separate part 1 from part 2 The length of this part can be extended as far as the length of part 2 can be reduced.
Remark	The acronym is provided as a means to detect a possible data capture problem in the identification code of the institution (Field 7, part 2) and thus ensure quality control of the identification number of the institution. The full name of the institution will be provided on the basis of the acronym or the identification code of the institution e.g. by an on-line tool available on the Internet. No full stop will be used in the acronym

Field Name	Identification number of the institution
Description	Identification code awarded nationally to the 'institution', viz. the competent institution of insurance.
Position	Field 7, part 2
Values	See national code list of competent institutions

Field Name	Identification number of the institution
Format	Font 'Verdana True Type' or equivalent, in regular style, 7 point size, black, with character width compressed to 90 % of normal size and 'normal' position and spacing of characters. Field 7 is aligned to the right border and Part 2 is to the left of Part 1. Line spacing of 3 points plus character size.
Length	Between 4 and 10 characters.
Remark	Complementary up-to-date and historical information which may be required for communicating with the institution could be made available on the Internet thanks to a knowledge centre tool. The competent institution may be different from the liaison body or the organisation in charge of the cross-border reimbursement as well as from the organisation in charge of technically issuing the European health insurance card. This information could also be made available on the Internet thanks to a knowledge centre tool.

3.5.4. Card related data elements

Field Name	Logical identification number of the card
Description	Logical individual number aiming at uniquely identifying the card and assigned to each card by the card issuer. It is made up of two parts, the issuer identifier number and the serial number of the card.
Position	Field 8
Values	The first 10 characters identify the card issuer in compliance with the standard EN 1867 of 1997 The last 10 digits constitute the unique serial number
Format	Font 'Verdana True Type' or equivalent, in regular style, 7 point size, black, with character width compressed to 90 % of normal size and 'normal' position and spacing of characters. Line spacing of 3 points plus character size
Length	20 characters (with leading 0 as needed in the 10 digits used for the unique serial number of the card).
Remark	For assigning an issuer identifier number, an ad hoc registration procedure may be used, instead of the official one as defined in the standard EN 1867, in the Member States which issue European health insurance cards without an electronic component. This logical card ID number must enable the information carried by the card to be checked against the information held by the issuing organisation for the same logical number, for example in order to reduce the risk of fraud or to identify errors in data entry when processing the information of the card for claim reimbursement purposes.

Field Name	Expiry date
Description	End date of the entitlement to receive health care during a temporary stay in a Member State other than the insuring Member State.
Position	Field 9
Values	DD/MM/YYYY, where D stands for Day, M for Month and Y for Year
Format	Font 'Verdana True Type' or equivalent, in regular style, 7 point size, black, with character width compressed to 90 % of normal size and 'normal' position and spacing of characters. Aligned to the right border. Line spacing of 3 points plus character size.

Field Name	Expiry date
Length	10 characters, including a slash between each group.
Remark	A Member State will be entitled to claim reimbursement for health care costs provided during the validity period of the card, although the entitlement period may be different from the validity period of the card.

3.6. Security requirements

All security measures remain the full responsibility of the card issuer, who is best placed to assess threats and implement appropriate counter-measures.

When placed on the reverse side of a national card, the European card will benefit from all security measures applied to the national card. As an additional security measure, it is, however, suggested that some data have the same values on both sides of the card.

Should other elements than those specified above be considered as required security measures (e.g. a picture of the card holder's face), then they will be applied on the other side of the card.

*ANNEX II***Model of the Provisional Replacement Certificate of the European Health Insurance Card****1. INTRODUCTION**

The Provisional Replacement Certificate (called 'the certificate' hereafter) may be provided to the insured person, on request only, and as a provisional replacement for the European card.

The certificate is identical in format in all Member States and contains, in the same order, the same data as the European card (fields 1 to 9) as well as data for certifying the origin and validity of the certificate (fields a to d).

2. MODEL OF CERTIFICATE

See next page.

**PROVISIONAL REPLACEMENT CERTIFICATE
OF THE
EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD**

*as defined in Annex 2 to Decision No S2
concerning the technical specifications of the European Health Insurance Card*

Issuing Member State

1.

2. ...

Card holder-related information

3. Name:
4. Given names:
5. Date of birth: .../.../.....
6. Personal identification number:

Competent institution-related information

7. Identification number of the institution:

.....

Card-related information

8. Identification number of the card:
9. Expiry date: .../.../.....

Certificate validity period

Certificate delivery date

(a) From: .../.../.....

(b) To: .../.../.....

(c) .../.../.....

Signature and stamp of the institution

(d)

Notes and information

All norms applicable to the eye-readable data included in the European card and related to the description, values, length and remarks of the data fields, are applicable to the certificate.