

On 6th October 2025

Shymaa Mohamed Arafat Hussein Mohamed
242 Al Fath Street (Tramway), 2nd floor, apartment3. Raml 1 district, Alexandria, Egypt.

The Deputy Director of Visas
BP 83609, 44036, Nantes cedex1, France.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to respectfully appeal the decision to refuse my visa application (reference number: **FRA1AR20257010321**; passport: **P EGY A42559381** new, **A24326340** old) submitted to attend the **E-Vote-ID 2025 Conference** in Nancy, France (30 September – 3 October 2025).

I was informed through the decision letter (attached) that my application was refused on the grounds that “*Les information submitted regarding the justification for the purpose and conditions of the intended stay was **not reliable***”. I was very shocked by this decision, as I took great care to provide accurate and complete documentation.

To clarify:

1. Conference Participation

- I was accepted to present **three posters** at the conference. My name appears as “*Shymaa Arafat*” in the list of accepted posters at the official conference site (<https://e-vote-id-2025.inria.fr/pages/program.html>).
- I’ve submitted an invitation letter signed by the conference local chair, *Prof. Pierrick Gaudry*, and the receipt of the conference registration fee; the payment transaction could also be traced in the submitted activity log of my credit card.
- Copies of my accepted posters are publicly available (https://github.com/DrShymaa2022/E_Vote_ID_2025_posters).
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2. Supporting Documentation

- In addition to the official invitation letter and conference registration receipt, I have submitted also hotel reservation receipt, and flight tickets (via Luxembourg airport, which is closer to Nancy).
- I also provided detailed financial documentation, including bank statements, international card transactions, and a budget plan. These demonstrate that I had sufficient resources to cover the trip.
- Copies of submitted documents exist in (https://github.com/DrShymaa2022/travel_documents)
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3. Clarification of Updates

- During my interview at TLS-Contact (Alexandria branch), I updated my application to reflect that my full paper had been converted into three posters. This was noted transparently in writing. The interviewer also advised me to change my Visa type from Business-Scientist/Researcher to Business-Business saying that the former is usually only given to long term funded stay based on a protocol between universities and/or research institutes, and I did.
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4. Timing of Notification

- Although I filled in the application on 4th of August, there was no free appointment earlier than 11th of September; neither weekend service nor apply anywhere service as faster options were available in Alexandria. Getting the decision 2-3 weeks earlier could have given me time to clarify, provide additional documents, or find any solution before my scheduled departure on 29 September. Please note that it wasn’t logical to apply before sending the paper and being sure of my decision to attend.
- Also, the refusal decision was dated 21 September, but I was only informed on 25 September after 2:30 pm.

My losses:

I emphasize that my purpose was solely academic: to present my independent research, engage with peers, and explore potential collaborations. Missing this opportunity has caused significant professional and financial loss.

1. **Scientific Losses (Interaction with the E-Vote-ID Community)**

- I recorded my teaser videos offline (2 mins per poster) and they were played back at the first 30 mins. Then at the rest of the session, I lost the chance to invite people to my posters and explain their details; when they arranged an online attendance for me I saw people passing by my posters and going to other posters whose presenters physically exist to explain and discuss better than an online chat. This is discussed in the attached email thread between me and the conference organizers.
- My rejected paper, which I turned parts of it into 2 of the 3 posters, is related to 2 other papers presented in the conference about the Estonian internet voting system. Since the organizers was not able to arrange an online presence in the main hall, I lost the chance to engage in the discussions to relate and/or defend the point of view in my research; this was of major importance to me, and I was hoping it could lead to joint research plans with them.
- The loss extends to all other presented papers and talks of keynote speakers; E-Vote-ID does not upload the videos of its activities online, so I lost not just the chance of asking and engaging in the discussions but of watching the sessions at all.
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2. **Financial Losses**

- In addition to the impact of the above on my future career opportunities as I clarified in the applications that I do not have a current job, there is the direct loss of the money I have paid.
- The cost can be traced in the credit card activity log of August to be reach 1150 Euro with taxes. The number is not big for some, but it constitutes nearly 20% of all I have; I had to liquidate some assets to refill the card in the same month so that I have enough liquidity during my trip.

Given these facts, I respectfully request:

- A **clear explanation** of which part of my application was deemed “*not reliable*.”
- An **investigation and review of my case** to ensure that my documentation and academic purpose are properly considered.
- A **correction of the record** and assurance that this refusal will not negatively affect my eligibility for future Schengen visa applications, as I intend to attend upcoming international conferences.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I kindly request acknowledgment of this appeal and guidance on the next steps.

Yours faithfully,
Shymaa M. Arafat

October 6, 2025

Attachments:

- Copies of my ID documents (2 passports + National ID)
- Plane tickets
- Hotel reservation receipt
- French Health Insurance
- Conference registration receipt
- Conference invitation letter
- Conference program (including my 3 posters)
- Copies of my 3 posters
- Parts of email threads between me and the conference organizers (they had to reprint the posters and set an online webinar link, but only for the demo session; could not make it available for paper presentations or talks of keynote speakers)
- Financial statements
- TLS-contact receipt and handed documents
- Refusal letter
- English copy of this letter