



## **Accompanying note to the Russian intelligence officer's cover identity**

In support of the press release on Sergey Vladimirovich Cherkasov, alias Viktor Muller Ferreira, the AIVD published the elaborate and complex cover identity of the intelligence officer. This note provides some background to the way in which this Russian intelligence officer operated.

The document – probably created around mid-2010 – concerns an elaboration of Ferreira's cover story, likely written by Cherkasov himself in order to memorise the details of his cover. Such a cover identity story is also called a "legend". The cover identity of an illegal is generally very complex and difficult – if not impossible – for outsiders to verify. The story contains a combination of authentic information and personal (possibly fabricated) impressions.

Russian intelligence services spend years on the construction of legends for illegals. To this end they collect information, for example on how other countries register and store personal data, but also by illegally procuring or forging identity documents. Information in the legend can therefore be traceable to one or more actual persons, living or dead, as well as individuals who exist only on paper (in the registries of local authorities).

The document is in Portuguese, probably because this is the language that best matches his cover identity. The Portuguese text contains several (grammar) mistakes, presumably because Portuguese is not Cherkasov's native language. Dutch and English translations are also included.

Personal data and other traceable information pertaining to people not (directly) involved in Cherkasov's intelligence activities, has been redacted.