

The present invention relates to the technical field of varnishes for protecting security documents, such as banknotes, against premature detrimental influence of soil and/or moisture upon use and time. In particular, the present invention provides a cationic UV-LED radiation curable protective varnish comprising: a) from about 65 wt-% to about 90 wt-% of either a cycloaliphatic epoxide, or a mixture of a cycloaliphatic epoxide and one or more cationically curable monomers other than the cycloaliphatic epoxide; b) from about 1 wt-% to about 10 wt-% of a diaryl iodonium salt; c) from about 0.01 wt-% to about 5 wt-% of a non-ionic surfactant; and d) a photosensitizer of general formula (I), wherein the weight percents are based on the total weight of the cationic UV-LED curable protective varnish, and a process for coating a security document with said cationic UV-LED radiation curable protective varnish.

