

11362/97

LIMITE

ASIM 192

NOTE

from : Presidency

to : Visa Working Party

Subject: Draft Joint Action of the Council concerning a uniform format for forms for affixing visas issued by the Member States to persons holding no travel documents or to holders of travel documents which are not recognized by the Member State drawing up the form

Delegations will find attached the above draft Joint Action.

DRAFT

JOINT ACTION
of

adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union
concerning a uniform format for forms for affixing visas issued by
the Member States to persons holding no travel documents or to holders of
travel documents which are not recognized by the Member State drawing up the form

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the European Union, and in particular Article K.3(2)(b) thereof,

Whereas Article K.1(3) of the Treaty provides that immigration policy and policy regarding nationals of third countries constitute matters of common interest;

Whereas it is advisable to harmonize the format of forms for affixing visas issued by the Member States to persons holding no travel documents or to holders of travel documents which are not recognized by the Member State drawing up the form;

Whereas the uniform format for the form must contain all the necessary information and meet high technical standards, in particular as regards safeguards against counterfeiting and falsification; whereas it must also be suited to use by all the Member States and bear universally recognizable security features which are clearly visible to the naked eye;

Whereas this Joint Action only lays down such specifications as are not secret; whereas these specifications need to be supplemented by further specifications which are to remain secret in order to prevent counterfeiting and falsification and which may not include personal data or references to such data; whereas it is for the Council to lay down these supplementary specifications;

Whereas, to ensure that the information referred to is not made available to more persons than necessary, each Member State must designate a single body having responsibility for printing the uniform format for forms for affixing visas, with Member States remaining free to change the body, if need be; whereas, for security reasons, each Member State must communicate the name of the competent body to the Council and the Commission;

Whereas, with regard to the personal data to be entered on the uniform format for forms in accordance with the Annex hereto, it is necessary to ensure compliance with applicable data-protection provisions,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Forms for affixing visas issued by the Member States to persons holding no travel documents or to holders of travel documents which are not recognized by the Member State issuing the visas shall be in a uniform format.

Article 2

1. The technical specifications for incorporating the information set out in the Annex to this Joint Action on the uniform format for forms for affixing visas shall be laid down by the Council without delay.

Further technical specifications which render the form difficult to counterfeit or falsify shall also be laid down by the Council without delay. These specifications shall be secret and shall not be published. They shall be made available only to the bodies designated by the Member States as responsible for printing and to persons duly authorized by a Member State.

2. Each Member State shall designate a single body having responsibility for printing forms for affixing visas. It shall communicate the name of that body to the Council and the Commission. The same body may be designated by two or more Member States for this purpose. Each Member State shall be free to change its designated body. It shall inform the Council and the Commission accordingly.

3. Each Member State shall inform the Council and the Commission of the competent authority or authorities for issuing forms for affixing visas.

Article 3

1. Without prejudice to any more extensive provisions applicable concerning data protection, an individual to whom a form for affixing a visa is issued shall have the right to verify the personal particulars entered on it and, where appropriate, to ask for any corrections to be made.
2. No information in machine-readable form shall be given on the uniform format for forms for affixing visas.

Article 4

For the purpose of this Joint Action, "form for affixing a visa" shall mean the document issued by the authorities of a Member State to a person holding no travel document or to a holder of a travel document which is not recognized by that State, enabling that State's competent authorities to affix a visa in the uniform format provided for by Council Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 of 29 May 1995 laying down a uniform format for visas ⁽¹⁾.

Article 5

Where Member States use the uniform format for forms for affixing visas for purposes other than those covered by Article 4, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that confusion with the forms for affixing visas in accordance with Article 4 is not possible.

Article 6

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the day after its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

The Member States shall apply Article 1 no later than X years after the adoption of the measures referred to in Article 2(1).

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 164, 14.7.1995, p. 1.

Feuillet pouvant servir pour l'apposition d'un visa
No.....

Nom / Name / Name.....

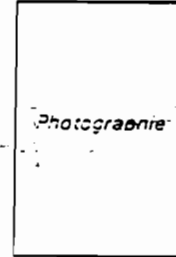
Prénoms / Vornamen / Given names.....

Date de naissance / Geburtsdatum / Date of birth.....

Lieu de naissance / Geburtsort / Place of birth.....

Nationalité / Staatsangehörigkeit / Nationality.....

Domicile / Wohnort / Address.....

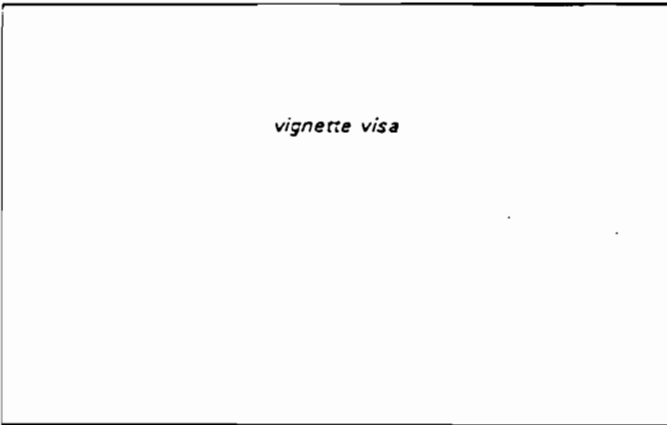


Signature / Unterschrift / Signature :

ENFANTS : KINDER / CHILDREN

Nom / Name / Name	Prénoms / Given names / Vornamen	Date de naissance / Geburtsdatum / Date of birth	Sexe / Geschlecht / Sex
.....
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Rubrique facultative selon la pratique nationale / Nur auszufüllen wenn die nationale Gesetzgebung es verlangt / To fill out only if required by national regulations



seulement valable ensemble avec le document d'identité no. / Nur gültig mit dem Ausweis No. / valid only if accompanied by the identity document nr

Genre du document / Art des Ausweises / Type of document _____
établi le / ausgestellt am / issued on _____
par / durch / by _____
valable jusqu'au / valid until _____

Reservé à l'autorité de délivrance / Ausstellung Behörde / Issuing Authority only