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LIMITE

**VISA
COMIX**

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From: Presidency
To: Visa Working Party

Subject: Assessment of the Belgian Presidency

Delegations will find attached the presentation made by the Belgian Presidency at the Visa Working Party meeting on 21 June 2024.

Assessment of the BE Presidency

Visa Working Party

January – June 2024



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1. *Legislative work (and other legal acts)*
2. *Strategic discussions*
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Legislative work and other legal acts



1. *Amending Regulation 2018/1806 as regards holders of **Serbian passports** issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate*

- Mandate of negotiation approved by Coreper on 14 February 2024
- Report of the rapporteur adopted in LIBE committee on 9 April 2024
- Confirmation of the political agreement by Coreper on 10 April
- Plenary vote in EP on 23 April

FOLLOW-UP : "corrigendum" procedure and final adoption by the EP and the Council in the fall 2024

2. *Amending Regulation 2018/1806 as regards the visa suspension mechanism*

- Mandate of negotiation approved by Coreper on 13 March 2024
- On EP side, rapporteur (Matjaž Nemec – S&D) decided to postpone the vote on the report in LIBE committee

FOLLOW-UP : EP to adopt its position + trilogues to start under incoming Presidencies

3. *Amending Regulation 2018/1806 as regards Vanuatu*

- Publication of the Commission proposal on 31 May 2024
- Mandate of negotiation approved by Coreper on 19 June 2024

FOLLOW-UP : EP to adopt its position + trilogues to start under HU Presidency

4. *Council implementation decision on repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2459 on the application of an increased visa fee with respect to **The Gambia***

- Approval in Coreper on 10 April 2024
- Formal adoption in Council (Ecofin) on 12 April 2024
- Entry into force: 29 April 2024

FOLLOW-UP : COM to monitor evolution of the cooperation on readmission

5. *Council implementation decision on the suspension of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council with respect to **Ethiopia***

- Approval in Coreper on 17 April 2024
- Formal adoption in Council (Agrifish) on 29 April 2024
- Entry into force: 1 June 2024

FOLLOW-UP : COM to monitor evolution of the cooperation on readmission

+ New report on Art. 25a mechanism : June 2024

+ IRAQ : new state of play in October



02 Strategic discussions



1. *Future of visa policy*

- *Objectives : tackle abuse of visa policy (link between visa and asylum policies) + strategic use of visa policy in our relations with third countries*
- *Discussions at technical, strategic and political level (Visa WP 26/03 & 24/04, Informal SCIFA 15/05, Schengen Council 13/06)*

- *Main takeaways of the discussion during Schengen Council on 13 June*
 - ✓ Need to develop comprehensive statistics on visa abuse = priority for next institutional cycle
 - ✓ Willingness to address more decisively the issue of non-alignment of third countries visa policies

FOLLOW-UP : next COM to reflect on the development of a common EU strategy on visa policy, incoming presidencies to pursue strategic discussions on visa policy

2. *New approach of the **report of the COM under the visa suspension mechanism***

- *Objective: foster greater synergy between Council and Commission, notably by foreseeing regular follow-up discussions (at least 1 per semester) + determine list of priority countries*

FOLLOW-UP : incoming presidencies to pursue the new approach, COM invited to take into account Member States' input for the report (new report expected fall 2024)

3. *New approach of the BE PDCY regarding **Article 25a mechanism***

- *Objective: rationalize the discussions in the Council + focus on visa-related aspects in the Visa WP*

FOLLOW-UP : incoming presidencies to pursue the new approach, further adapt if needed

4. Towards a *second generation of VFAs*

- *Objective: evaluate the relevance of creating a new generation of VFA to continue to benefit from VFAs that best serve the UE interests*

FOLLOW-UP : COM invited to take into account the orientations that emerged from the exchange of views (Visa WP 21/05) when drafting and negotiating upcoming VFAs

03 Other



- *Kazakhstan: political agreement to move forward with the negotiation of a VFA (and EURA)*

FOLLOW-UP : COM to come back on this in the fall

- *Armenia: opening of a visa liberalisation dialogue*

FOLLOW-UP : waiting for the updated report from COM – file on hold at the moment

- *Evaluation of the Visa Code*
- *Letter to EP regarding delegated act raising **visa fees***
- *Letter to US regarding **aircrew visa requirement***

FOLLOW-UP : outreach to be continued by COM and incoming presidencies

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR COOPERATION !**



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