

9312/95

LIMITE

ASIM 220

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Visa Working Party

on: Thursday 13 July 1995

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda contained in Telex 2832 dated 4 July 1995 was adopted, with the addition, at the request of the Irish delegation, of an item under "Other business" (see item 5b below).

2. Draft Council act adopting a joint position on airport transit arrangements **5058/3/95 ASIM 51 REV 3**

A situation report is contained in 9287/95 ASIM 218 which has been forwarded to Steering Group I.

3. Draft common position of the Council concerning instructions to the consular services of the Member States of the European Union on consular cooperation on visas **8633/95 ASIM 214**

Several delegations having voiced doubts on the usefulness of such a common position, the Presidency indicated that it would forward the text to Steering Group I for a policy debate.

4. Information item on the work of the Committee of Article 6 of the Council Regulation laying down a uniform format for visas

The Commission representative informed the Working Party of the progress made at the first meeting on 28 June of the Committee concerned with a uniform format for visas. The next meeting is scheduled for 15 September. The work will, in principle, be finished by the end of the year.

The French delegation, with the support of several other delegations, requested a policy debate in the Visa Working Party on the manner in which the stick-in visa should be completed bearing in mind the issues of a regulatory nature which could arise during this review.

The Presidency indicated that it would submit this question to the Steering Group I.

5. Other business

(a) Council Decision 94/795/JHA of 30 November 1994 on a joint action concerning travel facilities for school pupils from third countries resident in a Member State

- Pursuant to Article 5(2) and the third indent of Article 2 of this Decision, the Member States were asked to provide information (Telex 2583 dated 16 June 1995)

The Danish, Belgian, Greek, Irish, Luxembourg, Austrian, Finnish and United Kingdom delegations responded in writing to Telex 2583.

The German, Spanish, French, Italian and Netherlands delegations provided an oral response at the meeting itself. The Portuguese and Swedish delegations are to communicate their response at a later date (the Swedish delegation pointed out that preparing its response was somewhat complicated by the fact that the Council's decision had not yet been translated into Swedish).

From the information available at this stage, the following points emerge:

– Application of Article 2 of the Decision

Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria and Finland wanted Article 2 to apply to their lists of school pupils.

Ireland and the United Kingdom did not want to make use of such a possibility.

France had not yet decided if it would make use of Article 2 or not.

– Date of application of the Decision

Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, the United Kingdom: ready for application by 1 September 1995, or earlier.

Belgium: preliminary draft of royal decree currently at the Council of State for an opinion, but should in principle be applicable by September 1995.

(b) Visas for Croatian nationals

Looking towards a possible abolition of visas for Croatian nationals, the Irish delegation asked about the position in the other Member States.

The following responses were given :

- Spain: short stay visas
- Benelux: visa currently required; it was possible that this requirement would be re-examined if a readmission agreement were concluded.

- Sweden: agreement on abolition of visas with Croatia had just been suspended (difficulties in returning Croatian nationals to Croatia)
 - France: abolition of visa requirement in February, supplemented by a readmission agreement
 - Austria: no visa, but problems owing to the number of forged passports
 - Germany: short stay visas suspended for a long time now; readmission agreement, same problem as Austria regarding forged passports
 - Portugal: agreement on abolition of visas for short stays (up to 90 days)
 - Greece: agreement on abolition of visas came into force in April 1995, but did not apply to seamen arriving at Greek ports.
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