

Brussels, 27 April 2026  
(OR. en)

7217/1/26  
REV 1 ADD 1

**LIMITE**

**VISA 29**  
**MIGR 90**  
**ASILE 35**  
**FRONT 67**  
**IXIM 81**  
**RELEX 408**  
**COMIX 70**

**CH**  
**IS**  
**LI**  
**NO**

**NOTE**

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From: Commission services

To: Visa Working Party/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway and Switzerland/Liechtenstein)

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Subject: EU visa strategy – new assessment framework for visa exemptions: country assessment fiche for the visa waiver process

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Delegations will find in the Annex the model of Country Assessment Fiche for the Visa Waiver Process.

Delegations are kindly requested to pay particular attention to the sensitive nature of the document and protect it accordingly.

**Visa Waiver Process – Country assessment Fiche**

**Country: X**

**I. Quantitative assessment**

Quantitative Criteria	Period of data considered	Compliance	assessment for country X
1. Visa refusal rate	Four-year trend before the assessment	Visa refusal rate at approximately 3% for nationals of the third country	
2. Refusals of entry	Four-year trend before the assessment	Significant decrease on the four-year period	
3. Nationals of the third country found to be illegally present in the EU	Four-year trend before the assessment	Significant decrease on the four-year period	
4. Illegal border crossings by nationals of the third country	Four-year trend before the assessment	Significant decrease on the four-year period	
5. Return decisions issued by Member States for nationals of the third country	Four-year trend before the assessment	Significant decrease on the four-year period	
6. Number of asylum applications	Four-year trend before the assessment	Significant decrease on the four-year period	

**II. Qualitative assessment**

*NB: max 300 words per criterion*

**1. Alignment with the Union’s external relations and interests**

<p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <p><i>Qualitative assessment of the Commission, the EEAS, and Member States, based among others on:</i></p> <p><i>1) serious breach of the principles set out in the UN Charter and/or grave violations of international human rights or humanitarian law</i></p> <p><i>2) hostile act against the Union or Member States and/or involvement in a major harmful initiative or event at international level</i></p> <p><i>3) a CFSP sanctions regime targeting that country.</i></p> <p><i>4) Lack of visa alignment policy, i.e., if different from the EU, a visa regime with other third countries that does not present any security/irregular migration with the EU</i></p> <p><i>5) Operation of a Citizenship-by-investment programme by the third-country</i></p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Overall positive/not positive</p>
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## 2. Economic interest for the EU

### Assessment:

*Qualitative assessment of the Commission and Member States on the potential EU economic benefit stemming from a visa-free regime with the third country concerned including considering EU economic security (in its various dimensions, such as diversification of supply chains, raw material supply, connectivity etc...) tourism, energy and trade.*

**Outcome:** Overall positive/not positive

## 3. Travel document and border management cooperation

### Assessment:

*Qualitative assessment of the Commission and Member States based on level of document security (compulsory issuing of biometric travel documents), identity management systems and overall cooperation with the EU, including EU Agencies as relevant.*

**Outcome:** Overall positive/not positive

## 4. Level of cooperation on security and justice (including fight against terrorism and organised crime)

### Assessment:

*Two-step approach:*

*1)Situational check: security threats are being posed by nationals (or residents) of a certain third country*

*2)Based on that, evaluation of the level of cooperation between the authorities of a third country and the EU (where relevant, including EU Agencies) to counter these threats.*

**Outcome:** Not relevant/Overall positive/not positive

## 5. Level of cooperation on countering migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings

### Assessment:

*Qualitative assessment of the Commission and Member States based among others on:*

*1)Endorsement of the Global Alliance Joint Declaration*

*2) Being a State Party to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and its relevant protocols (smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons)*

*3)Operational cooperation (e.g. existing Partnership and Cooperation agreements, law enforcement cooperation with EU and Member States, level of information exchange etc.).*

**Outcome:** Not relevant/Overall positive/not positive

## 6. Cooperation on return and readmission

**Assessment:**

*Qualitative assessment of the Commission and Member States, including under Article 25a, where relevant, to complement the quantitative criteria under Pillar I.*

**Outcome:** Not relevant/Overall positive/not positive

## 7. Other considerations

### III. Overall conclusion

Considering the assessment carried out in relation to qualitative and quantitative criteria, as well as the overall assessment of the EU interest to initiate a Visa Waiver Process with x Country, it is concluded that the Visa Waiver Process can/cannot be launched for Country X.

(If assessment positive) In the context of the Visa Waiver Process, the main areas where progress is expected by Country X are:

- XXXXX
- YYYYY
- ZZZZZ