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COMIX 243

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Subject: Schengen evaluation of the new Member States

- Additional general question presented by the Finnish delegation on
the issuing of visa - Reply by ESTONIA

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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NOTE

from : the Republic of Estonia

to : the Schengen evaluation Working Party

No. prev. doc. : 6358/06 SCHEVAL 16 COMIX 160

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Question 74

In answers (Statistics) to this Question it can be noted that in some of the new Member State Embassies inside the Schengen Area the rejection rate is 5 - 10 %. The same Member States have a rejection rate of 1 – 2 % in Kiev, Ukraine. The average rejection rate of the Schengen Embassies in Kiev is 15 %.

- a) **Is it possible to specify the reason for this, i.e. why the rejection rates of applications received from the Schengen Area is bigger than those concerning applications received from outside the Schengen Area?**

Estonia has only 31 representations issuing visas; most of them are inside Schengen area. Therefore there is also a possibility to apply a visa by post or through a representative. However, as a rule after receiving an application and some supporting documents, a consular officer wishes to interview an applicant, which in many cases might not be possible, as the applicants cannot get Schengen visa. In most cases the positive decision cannot be made

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without sufficient supporting documentation and interview. Herby, because of many applications from outside Schengen Area to our representations inside Schengen Area, our rejection rates inside Schengen Area might seem to be high.

b) Do your Embassies follow the rejection rates of the other Member States and are they aware of the reasons to the rejections of the other Member States?

Our embassies do not follow the rejection rates of the other Member States, as the statistics is not shared properly and as a rule the information on refusals is not shared.

c) Do you follow the exchange of statistical information on the issuing of uniform visas (Doc. 9749/05 VISA 134 COMIX 377 of 3 June 3 2005 + COR 1 of 2 August 2 2005).

No.

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