



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 4 December 2012
(OR. en)**

16900/12

**Interinstitutional File:
2012/0333 (NLE)**

**VISA 237
COEST 411
OC 693**

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas

COMMON GUIDELINES

Consultation deadline for Croatia: 5.12.2012

COUNCIL DECISION

of

**on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement
between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia
on the facilitation of the issuance of visas**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular point (a) of Article 77(2), in conjunction with Article 218(5), thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit of 7 May 2009 stated the political support towards visa liberalisation and the intention to take gradual steps towards the visa free travel for their citizens in due course.
- (2) On 19 December 2011, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the Republic of Armenia on an Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas ("the Agreement"). The negotiations were successfully concluded by the initialling of the Agreement on 18 October 2012.
- (3) The Agreement should be signed on behalf of the Union, subject to its conclusion.
- (4) This Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* in which the United Kingdom does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision 2000/365/EC of 29 May 2000 concerning the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis*¹; the United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

¹ OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43.

- (5) This Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* in which Ireland does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision 2002/192/EC of 28 February 2002 concerning Ireland's request to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis*¹; Ireland is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
- (6) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol (No 22) on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

¹ OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20.

Article 1

The signing, on behalf of the Union, the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas is hereby authorised, subject to the conclusion of the said Agreement.¹ *

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person(s) empowered to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Union.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

¹ The text of the Agreement will be published together with the decision on its conclusion.
* Delegations: See document ST 16913/12.