



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 5 December 2012

**17517/11
EXT 1**

**VISA 244
COEST 442**

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

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Subject: Negotiations for the conclusion of Agreements between the European Union and:

- the Russian Federation, amending the Agreement between the European Community and the Russian Federation on the facilitation of the issuance of visas to the citizens of the European Union and the Russian Federation

- Ukraine, amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas

- the Republic of Moldova, amending the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on the facilitation of the issuance of visas

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



ANNEX

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 25 November 2011

**17517/11
EXT 1 (05.12.2012)**

**VISA 244
COEST 442**

NOTE

from: Presidency

to: Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum

Subject: Negotiations for the conclusion of Agreements between the European Union and:

- the Russian Federation, amending the Agreement between the European Community and the Russian Federation on the facilitation of the issuance of visas to the citizens of the European Union and the Russian Federation
- Ukraine, amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas
- the Republic of Moldova, amending the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on the facilitation of the issuance of visas

1. Introduction

On 11 April 2011, the Council adopted three Decisions authorising the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of the three Agreements in subject, with a view to amending the existing Visa Facilitation Agreements (VFA's) with the three third countries concerned.

On the basis of the mandates given by the Council, the Commission has since then been negotiating the amendments to the VFA's with those countries. After each round of negotiations, the text of the amendments has been submitted to delegations at several meetings of the Visa Working Party and of JHA Counsellors. The Commission aims at having the three agreements initialled by the end of this year and at being able to present its proposals for signature and conclusion of the agreements in the beginning of next year.

The most recent version of the text of the amendments to the Agreement with the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Moldova as set out in 16707/11, 17038/11 and in 17098/11 respectively, was discussed at the meeting of the Visa Working Party on 23 November 2011.

NOT DECLASSIFIED FROM THIS POINT UNTIL THE END OF THE DOCUMENT

(page 4)
