



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	COREPER (Part 2)
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Subject:	Handling within the Council of the Communication from the Commission - Draft Council Regulation laying down the form of the laissez-passer issued to members and servants of the institutions (COM(2007) 849 final)

Terms of reference for a Friends of Presidency (FoP) Group on Laissez-Passer (LP)

1. The objective is to ensure a swift re-launching of negotiations on an upgraded form of LP with a view to reaching an agreement on a draft Council Regulation (on the basis of Article 6 of Protocol No 7 on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union). The EU LP needs to be upgraded in order to ensure that it is sufficiently protected against falsification and forgery and is widely recognized internationally for travelling purposes.

2. The progress made and the first results achieved up to 2009 within the Council Working Party on the Staff Regulations and after having consulted the Visa Working Party on the level of security required (ST 9560/2/09 REV 2) did not allow for a final decision. Several questions remained open that require further discussion, notably questions related to security standards, quantification of needs, budget implications, use of languages, the design and form of the new LP, its validity duration, its recognition by third countries and to a certain extent the actual process of production.

3. The Friends of the Presidency Group (FoP) on LP is intended to be activated in order to speed up the process by examining all cross-cutting issues and by taking duly account of the operational needs resulting from the establishment of the European External Action Service (EEAS). Discussions should cover all outstanding questions in relation to the EU LP, in particular those mentioned under paragraph 2, as well as any other related questions that would emerge. If necessary, the FoP will consult with relevant Council Working Groups.

4. Delegations should ensure the appropriate representation in the FoP (names and contact details should be communicated to the General Secretariat of the Council via e-mail at sec.statut@consilium.europa.eu by Thursday, 3 October 2013). The FoP Group will be chaired by Mr Vygantas Ivanauskas, Home affairs attaché, Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU (e-mail: Vygantas.Ivanauskas@eu.mfa.lt).

5. The dates of the FoP meetings will be announced at a later stage. The first meeting is due to take place in October and will enable an exchange of views on the Commission Communication of 2007 on the basis of all latest information, which will be set out in a Presidency paper. The latter will also precise the Presidency's intentions regarding the working methods and the possible way forward on the different issues mentioned in paragraph 2. Subsequent meetings are planned to examine the legal provisions of a draft Council Regulation. If necessary, the mandate of this FoP will be extended, as appropriate. The FoP will report regularly to COREPER on progress made.

6. On this basis COREPER is invited to note the Presidency's intention to extend the mandate of the FoP to cover the Communication (COM(2007) 849 final) on LP.
