



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 30 November 2012

17064/12

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

**VISA 240
COEST 417
OC 702**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion prop.: 16881/12 VISA 235 COEST 409

Subject: Council Decision on the signature of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas
COMMON GUIDELINES
Consultation deadline: 05.12.2012

1. On 19 December 2011, the Council adopted a Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas¹.
2. The Agreement was initialled by the Commission and the authorities of the Republic of Armenia on 18 October 2012.
3. On 27 November 2012, the Commission submitted a proposal for a Council Decision on the signature² and a proposal concerning the conclusion³ of the said agreement.

¹ 18413/11 VISA 264 COEST 484 (EU RESTRICTED).

² 16881/12 VISA 235 COEST 409.

³ 16883/12 VISA 236 COEST 410.

4. At the Visa Working Party on 27 November 2012, delegations were informed that the Presidency was intending to have the Decision on signature adopted by the Council on 11 December 2012, after its legal and linguistic revision, for the purpose of its signature in Brussels on 17 December 2012 in the margin of Cooperation Council with Armenia.
5. 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 acquis¹; the United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
6. 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 acquis²; Ireland is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
7. 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.
8. The Decision and the text of the Agreement have been edited by the Legal-Linguistic experts. The edited texts are set out respectively in 16900/12 VISA 237 COEST 411 OC 693 and 16913/12 VISA 238 COEST 414 OC 694.
9. The Permanent Representatives Committee is on this basis invited to suggest that the Council adopt, under part "A" of the agenda of its meeting on 11 December 2012, the Decision on the signature of the above agreement as set out in 16900/12 VISA 237 COEST 411 OC 693.

¹ OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43.

² OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20.