



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 16 March 2017
(OR. en)

6375/17

VISA 61
CHINE 7

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations with the People's Republic of China for an international Agreement between the European Union and the People's Republic of China on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2017/....

of ...

**authorising the opening of negotiations
with the People's Republic of China
for an international Agreement
between the European Union
and the People's Republic of China
on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 77(2)(a), in conjunction with Article 218(3) and (4) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Negotiations should be opened with a view to concluding an international agreement with the People's Republic of China on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas.
- (2) 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/EC¹; the United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
- (3) 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/EC²; Ireland is therefore not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
- (4) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of 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 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* (OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43).

² 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* (OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20).

Article 1

The Commission is hereby authorised to open negotiations, on behalf of the Union, for an international agreement between the European Union and the People's Republic of China on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas.

Article 2

The negotiating directives are set out in 7363/17 VISA 103 CHINE 10 (RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED).

Article 3

The negotiations shall be conducted in consultation with the Visa Working Party of the Council.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Commission.

Done at

For the Council

The President
