



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 15 November 2013**

**15661/13**

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**Interinstitutional File:  
2013/0355 (NLE)**

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**VISA 221  
COEST 348**

**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat  
to: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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No. Cion prop.: 14822/13 VISA 206 COEST 316 (COM(2013) 741 final)

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Subject: Council Decision on the signature of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the facilitation of the issuance of visas

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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 Azerbaijan on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas<sup>1</sup>.
2. The Agreement was initialled by the Commission and the authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 29 July 2013 in Brussels.
3. On 29 October 2013, the Commission submitted a proposal for a Council Decision on the signature<sup>2</sup> and a proposal concerning the conclusion<sup>3</sup> of the said agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> 18414/11 VISA 265 COEST 485 (RESTREINT UE).

<sup>2</sup> 14822/13 VISA 206 COEST 316.

<sup>3</sup> 14823/13 VISA 207 COEST 317.

4. At the JHA Counsellors meeting on 11 November 2013, delegations were informed that the Presidency was intending to have the Decision on signature adopted by the Council, after its legal and linguistic revision, for the purpose of signing the agreement in Vilnius on 28-29 November 2013 in the margin of the Third Eastern Partnership Summit.
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 acquis<sup>1</sup>; 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 acquis<sup>2</sup>; 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 15553/13 VISA 217 COEST 341 and 15554/13 VISA 218 COEST 342.
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 25 November 2013, the Decision on the signature of the above agreement as set out in 15553/13 VISA 217 COEST 341.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20.