



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 25 November 2013**

**16084/13**

**VISA      235  
MA        15**

**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

---

from :            General Secretariat of the Council  
to :                Coreper/Council  
No. Cion prop. : 14529/13 VISA 199 MA 8 (RESTREINT UE) (COM(2013) 684 final)  
Subject :        Adoption of a Council Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations  
                      for the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Union and Morocco on  
                      the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas

---

1. The Commission submitted on 4 October 2013 a Recommendation to the Council in order to authorise the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Union and Morocco on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas, set out in 14529/13 VISA 199 MA 8 (RESTREINT UE).
2. Following examination of the Recommendation by the Visa Working Party on 18 October and by the JHA Counsellors on 11 November 2013, it was concluded that there was a basic consensus on the draft mandate, subject to point 2.2 of the draft negotiating directives (documentary evidence to be presented by visa applicants) and to point 2.4 (visa exemption for holders of service passports).

4. Consequently, the Presidency had 16462/13 VISA 243 MA 16 issued and invited delegations to forward the comments they might have on the draft negotiating directives. Given that only a few delegations have sent comments, the Presidency is of the opinion that there is a clear qualified majority in favour of the text of the negotiating directives for the Commission as set out in 16462/13.
5. The draft Council Decision set out in 16083/13 VISA 234 MA 14 (RESTREINT EU) has been prepared on that basis.
6. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to ask the Council to adopt the draft Council Decision as set out in 16083/13 VISA 234 MA 14 (RESTREINT EU) as an A point.

---