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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Local Schengen cooperation between Member States' consulates (Article 48(5), first subparagraph, of the Visa Code) - Compilation of summary reports covering the period 2013-2014

Delegations will find attached the annual report in relation to Costa Rica drawn up in the local Schengen cooperation, as transmitted by the services of the Commission.

Encl.: _____



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO COSTA RICA

26/3/2014

LOCAL SCHENGEN COOPERATION (LSC) in Costa Rica

2013-2014 REPORT¹

1. Introduction

There were 7 EU MS present in Costa Rica till the end of August 2013. BE left the country by August 2013. From that time there were 5 Schengen countries (ES, DE, FR, NL and IT) present. The non-Schengen EU MS is the UK.

ES represents BE, EE, EL, FR, MT, AT, PT, FI and SE in Costa Rica. NL represents SI.

2. LSC meetings held in 2013-2014

The LSC has been remotely managed and "chaired" from the EU Delegation in Nicaragua. During the previous reporting period (until March 2013) there was established the "modus operandi" of LSC meetings via videoconferences driven by EU Delegation in Nicaragua. In the actual reporting period there were 2 videoconferences substantially prepared and followed up by exchange of working e-mails. All EU MS were present.

There were no formal reports drawn by the EU Delegation.

3. State of play

3.1 Application of the Visa Code

MS were very cooperative in the implementation of the Visa Code. The visa fee was harmonized locally in 2013 and the Common Information sheet was approved.

3.2 Assessment of the need to harmonise the lists of supporting documents

The draft Harmonised list of supporting documents was sent to the Visa Committee by the end of March 2013 and respective comments received in June 2013. Due to rotation of MS consuls in 2013 the follow-up work on the draft text started again in September 2013. The up-dated draft was sent back for comments to the Visa Committee in December 2013. The Committee discussed the document in March 2014.

¹ April 2013 – March 2014

3.3 Exchange of information

Due to remote work the EU Delegation concentrated on the Visa Information sheet and Harmonised list of supporting documents only. Therefore, it is hard to assess the exchange of information among the EU MS in Costa Rica.

3.4 Any other initiative taken in LSC

No initiatives taken.

4. Challenges

Due to rotation of DHoD in Nicaragua (the current focal point for LSC in Costa Rica) in August 2014 and upgrade of Chargé d'affaires (representing locally the EU Presidency) in Costa Rica the agenda of LSC needs to be shifted from Nicaragua to Costa Rica. This way the business continuity and follow up in LSC in Costa Rica will be ensured.

5. Other issues

No other issues.
