



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 8 December 2014  
(OR. en)

15913/14

VISA 305  
TU 25

**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

---

From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

---

No. Cion doc.: 12331/14 VISA 198 TU 14 + ADD1 (RESTREINT UE)  
(COM(2014) 492 final)

---

Subject: Adoption of a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations with the Republic of Tunisia for the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part, on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas

---

1. On 31 July 2014, the Commission submitted 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 the Republic of Tunisia on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas, together with negotiating directives, set out respectively in 12331/14 VISA 198 TU 14 + ADD 1 (RESTREINT UE).
2. Following examination of the Recommendation and of the negotiating directives by the Visa Working Party on 17 September, on 13 October and on 21 November 2014, it was concluded that there was a basic consensus on the draft negotiating directives as amended on the basis of the compromise solution of the Presidency as set out in 15085/14 (RESTREINT UE), subject to the deletion in the text of the negotiating directives of the reference to "persons visiting on medical grounds".

3. Consequently, the negotiating directives for the Commission, as set out in 15912/14 (RESTREINT UE), have been prepared on that basis.
4. In parallel to the Visa Facilitation Agreement, a Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate a readmission agreement with the Republic of Tunisia is also to be adopted by the Council<sup>1</sup>.
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>2</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>3</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 Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to ask the Council to adopt the draft Council Decision as set out in 16057/14 VISA 312 TU 28 (RESTREINT UE), which refers to the negotiating directives set out in 15912/14 (RESTREINT UE), under the "A" part of the agenda of one of its forthcoming session.

---

<sup>1</sup> See 15141/14 MIGR 143 TU 22.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20.