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Interinstitutional Files:

2015/0049 (NLE)
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VISA 147
COLAC 44
COASI 44

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: a) Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Agreements on the short-stay visa waiver between the EU and Saint Lucia, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines, the Republic of Vanuatu, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, the Independent State of Samoa and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- Adoption
b) Council Decision on the conclusion of the same agreements
- Request by the Council for the consent of the European Parliament

1. On 5 March 2015, the Commission submitted proposals for Council decisions on the signing¹, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the agreements between the European Union and :

Saint Lucia, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Republic of Vanuatu, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, the Independent State of Samoa and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,

on the short-stay visa waiver, together with a draft text of the said agreements in the annex to those proposals², and proposals for Council decisions on the conclusion of the same agreements³.

2. Following the presentation of the proposals by the Commission at the Visa Working Party on 4 March 2015, delegations were invited on 10 March 2015 to send by e-mail the comments they might have on the text of the proposals on the signing by 18 March 2015. Since no comments were expressed by delegations, the Presidency sent, as agreed, the text of the proposals and of the agreements to the Directorate for Quality of Legislation for their legal and linguistic finalisation with a view to their swift adoption by the Council.

¹ 6885/15 VISA 57 COLAC 11 (COM(2015) 96 final), 6886/15 VISA 58 COLAC 10 (COM(2015) 95 final), 6887/15 VISA 59 COLAC 13 (COM(2015) 93 final), 6889/15 VISA 60 COLAC 9 (COM(2015) 109 final), 6890/15 VISA 61 COASI 19 (COM(2015) 92 final), 6892/15 VISA 62 COASI 21 (COM(2015) 94 final), 6893/15 VISA 63 COASI 20 (COM(2015) 107 final), 6894/15 VISA 64 COLAC 12 (COM(2015) 105 final).

² 6885/15 ADD 1 VISA 57 COLAC 11, 6886/15 ADD 1 VISA 58 COLAC 10, 6887/15 ADD 1 VISA 59 COLAC 13, 6889/15 ADD 1 VISA 60 COLAC 9, 6890/15 ADD 1 VISA 61 COASI 19, 6892/15 ADD 1 VISA 62 COASI 21, 6893/15 ADD 1 VISA 63 COASI 20, 6894/15 ADD 1 VISA 64 COLAC 12.

³ 6946/15 VISA 69 COLAC 14 (COM(2015) 110 final), 6948/15 VISA 70 COLAC 15 (COM(2015) 97 final), 6949/15 VISA 71 COLAC 16 (COM(2015) 102 final), 6952/15 VISA 72 COLAC 17 (COM(2015) 111 final), 6953/15 VISA 73 COASI 22 (COM(2015) 101 final), 6954/15 VISA 74 COASI 23 (COM(2015) 104 final), 6957/15 VISA 75 COASI 24 (COM(2015) 108 final), 6963/15 VISA 76 COLAC 18 (COM(2015) 106 final).

3. These decisions constitute 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 2000¹; the United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in their adoption and is not bound by them or subject to their application.
4. These decisions constitute 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 2002²; Ireland is therefore not taking part in their adoption and is not bound by them or subject to their application.
5. The decisions on the signing and the text of the agreements with those countries have been edited by the Legal-Linguistic experts. The edited texts of the decisions on the signing are set out in respectively:

7104/15 VISA 84 COLAC 19 (LA), 7109/15 VISA 86 COLAC 21 (LA), 7112/15 VISA 88 COLAC 23 (LA), 7114/15 VISA 90 COLAC 25 (LA), 7117/15 VISA 92 COASI 26 (LA), 7123/15 VISA 94 COASI 28 (LA), 7126/15 VISA 96 COASI 30 (LA), 7128/15 VISA 98 COLAC 27 (LA).

The edited texts of the agreements are set out in respectively:

7107/15 VISA 85 COLAC 20 (LA), 7111/15 VISA 87 COLAC 22 (LA), 7113/15 VISA 89 COLAC 24 (LA), 7115/15 VISA 91 COLAC 26 (LA), 7119/15 VISA 93 COASI 27 (LA), 7125/15 VISA 95 COASI 29 (LA), 7127/15 VISA 97 COASI 31 (LA), 7129/15 VISA 99 COLAC 28 (LA).

¹ OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43.

² OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20.

6. The decisions on the conclusion of the same agreements have also been edited by the Legal-Linguistic experts. The edited text is set out respectively in :

7187/15 VISA 105 COLAC 30 (LA), 7189/15 VISA 106 COLAC 31 (LA), 7190/15 VISA 107 COLAC 32 (LA), 7191/15 VISA 108 COLAC 33 (LA), 7192/15 VISA 109 COASI 32 (LA), 7194/15 VISA 110 COASI 33 (LA), 7195/15 VISA 111 COASI 34 (LA), 7196/15 VISA 112 COLAC 34 (LA).

7. Since the agreements are due to be provisionally applicable from the date set for their signature, the Presidency will subsequently notify as soon as possible to Member States the date(s) set for the signature.

8. The Permanent Representatives Committee is accordingly invited to recommend that the Council:

- a) adopt, as an "A" item of the agenda of one of its forthcoming sessions, the decisions on the signing as set out in 7104/15 VISA 84 COLAC 19, 7109/15 VISA 86 COLAC 21, 7112/15 VISA 88 COLAC 23, 7114/15 VISA 90 COLAC 25, 7117/15 VISA 92 COASI 26, 7123/15 VISA 94 COASI 28, 7126/15 VISA 96 COASI 30, 7128/15 VISA 98 COLAC 27;
- b) decide to forward the draft Decision on conclusion as set out in 7187/15 VISA 105 COLAC 30, 7189/15 VISA 106 COLAC 31, 7190/15 VISA 107 COLAC 32, 7191/15 VISA 108 COLAC 33, 7192/15 VISA 109 COASI 32, 7194/15 VISA 110 COASI 33, 7195/15 VISA 111 COASI 34, 7196/15 VISA 112 COLAC 34

to the European Parliament for its consent once the agreements have been duly signed.

The decisions on the signing together with the text of the agreements will be published in the OJ in accordance with the applicable rules.
