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VISA 166
COLAC 49

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

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

No. Cion doc.: 7142/15 VISA 101 COLAC 29 + ADD 1 (RESTREINT UE)
(COM(2015) 119 final)

Subject: Adoption of a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on short-stay visa waiver agreements between the European Union and Columbia and Peru

1. On 11 March 2015, the Commission submitted a Recommendation to the Council authorising the opening of negotiations on short-stay visa waiver agreements between the EU and Colombia and Peru, together with negotiating directives, set out respectively in 7142/15 VISA 101 COLAC 29 + ADD 1 (RESTREINT UE).
2. Following examination of the Recommendation and of the negotiating directives by the JHA Counsellors on 26 March 2015, by the Visa Working Party on 7 April 2015, and again by the JHA Counsellors on 27 April 2015, it was concluded that there was a broad consensus among delegations on the recommendation of the Commission and on the draft negotiating directives, taking into account the draft joint declarations as set out in 8470/15 (RESTREINT UE). Consequently, it was announced that the Presidency would invite the Council to adopt a draft Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations as an "A" item of the agenda of one of its forthcoming sessions, following its legal and linguistic revision.

3. Consequently, the draft Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations, as set out in 7568/15 has been prepared on that basis.
4. That 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 2000¹; the United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
5. That 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 2002²; Ireland is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
6. The text of the Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on short-stay visa waiver agreements between the European Union and Colombia and Peru has been edited by the Legal-Linguistic experts. The edited text is set out in 7584/15 VISA 128 COLAC 38.
7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is accordingly invited to recommend that the Council adopt under the "A" part of the agenda of one of its forthcoming sessions, the Council Decision as set out in 7584/15 VISA 128 COLAC 38, which refers to the negotiating directives set out in 7142/15 VISA 101 COLAC 29 ADD 1 (RESTREINT UE).

¹ OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43.

² OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20.