



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 12 May 2015
(OR. en)

7584/15

VISA 128
COLAC 38

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union with Colombia and Peru for the conclusion of bilateral agreements on the short-stay visa waiver

COUNCIL DECISION

of ...

**authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union
with Colombia and Peru for the conclusion of bilateral agreements
on the short-stay visa waiver**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular point (a) of Article 77(2), in conjunction with Article 218(3) and (4), thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 509/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹, the references to Colombia and Peru have been transferred from Annex I to Annex II to Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001².
- (2) The references to Colombia and Peru are accompanied by a footnote indicating that the exemption from the visa requirement shall apply from the date of entry into force of an agreement on visa exemption to be concluded with the European Union.
- (3) The Commission has positively assessed the fulfilment by Colombia and Peru of the relevant criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 with a view to the negotiation of bilateral agreements on the short-stay visa waiver between the European Union and both countries.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 509/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (OJ L 149, 20.5.2014, p. 67).

² Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 of 15 March 2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (OJ L 81, 21.3.2001, p. 1).

- (4) Negotiations should be opened with a view to concluding bilateral agreements on the short-stay visa waiver with Colombia and Peru.
- (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/EC¹; the United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in the adoption of this Decision 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/EC²; Ireland is therefore not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

¹ 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* (OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43).

² 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* (OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20).

Article 1

The Commission is hereby authorised to open negotiations, on behalf of the Union, with Colombia and Peru for the conclusion of bilateral agreements on the short-stay visa waiver.

Article 2

The negotiations shall be conducted on the basis of the negotiating directives of the Council set out in 7142/15 ADD 1.

Article 3

The negotiations shall be conducted in consultation with the Visa Working Party of the Council.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Commission.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President
