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VISA 244
COEST 236

PROPOSAL

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director
date of receipt:	31 July 2015
To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2015) 375 final
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION determining the European Union position for a Decision of the Joint Committee set up under the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas, with regard to the adoption of the rules of procedure for the Joint Committee

Delegations will find attached document COM(2015) 375 final.

Encl.: COM(2015) 375 final



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 31.7.2015
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Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

determining the European Union position for a Decision of the Joint Committee set up under the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas, with regard to the adoption of the rules of procedure for the Joint Committee

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

The Agreement between the European Union and Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas entered into force on 1 January 2014. The Agreement established, on the basis of reciprocity, legally binding rights and obligations for the purpose of simplifying the visa issuing procedures for Armenian citizens. Article 12 of this Agreement set up a Joint Committee tasked to monitor the implementation of the Agreement. According to paragraph 4 of this provision, the Committee establishes its rules of procedures.

The Rules of Procedure specify the organisational practicalities related to the Committee meetings and its work.

2. RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE INTERESTED PARTIES AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

The Rules of Procedure annexed to this proposal for a Council Decision were agreed with the Armenian side during the first meeting of the Committee. On 10 November 2014, the Commission officially consulted the Visa Working Party on the draft Rules of Procedure for the EU-Armenia Visa Facilitation Joint Committee, which did not render any comments. The text of the Rules of Procedure was prepared on the basis of similar documents already adopted by the Commission in the context of other EU Visa Facilitation Agreements in force (in particular with Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia).

3. FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPACT

This proposal has no impact on the EU budget.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular the Article 77(2) (a) in conjunction with Article 218(9) thereof,

Having regard to the Council Decision of 22 October 2013 (2013/628/EU) concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas¹;

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas² ("the Agreement") entered into force on 1 January 2014;
- (2) Article 12 of the Agreement sets up a Joint Committee ("the Committee");
- (3) Article 12(4) of the Agreement lays down that the Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure;
- (4) It is therefore appropriate to determine the Union position in relation to the rules of procedure to be adopted by the Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The position of the European Union within the Committee set up by Article 12 of the Agreement between the European Union and Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas with regard to the adoption of the rules of procedure shall be the draft Joint Committee Decision annexed to this decision.

¹ OJ L 289 of 31.10.2013, p.1.

² OJ L 289 of 31.10.2013, p.2.

2. Minor technical corrections to the draft Decision may be agreed by the representatives of the Union in the Joint Committee without further decision of the Council.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council
The President*