



Council of the  
European Union

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**Interinstitutional Files:**

2015/0194 (NLE)

2015/0195 (NLE)

2015/0202 (NLE)

2015/0198 (NLE)

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VISA 318  
COASI 136  
COLAC 99

**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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

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Subject: a) Council Decisions 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 the Republic of Palau, the Kingdom of Tonga, the Republic of Kiribati and the Republic of Colombia  
- Adoption  
b) Council Decisions on the conclusion of the same agreements  
- Request by the Council for the consent of the European Parliament

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1. On 14 September 2015, the Commission submitted proposals for Council decisions on the signing<sup>1</sup>, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the agreements between the European Union and:

the Republic of Palau, the Kingdom of Tonga, the Republic of Kiribati and the Republic of Colombia,

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<sup>1</sup> 12020/15 VISA 282 COASI 115 (COM(2015) 431 final), 12025/15 VISA 284 COASI 117 (COM (2015) 434 final), 12043/15 VISA 286 COASI 119 (COM(2015) 440 final), 12046/15 VISA 288 COLAC 88 COM(2015) 435 final).

on the short-stay visa waiver, together with a draft text of the said agreements in the annex to those proposals<sup>1</sup>, and proposals for Council decisions on the conclusion of the same agreements<sup>2</sup>.

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.
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 2000<sup>3</sup>; 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 2002<sup>4</sup>; Ireland is therefore not taking part in their adoption and is not bound by them or subject to their application.

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<sup>1</sup> **12020/15 VISA 282 COASI 115 (COM(2015) 431 final)**, **12025/15 VISA 284 COASI 117 (COM(2015) 434 final)**, **12043/15 VISA 286 COASI 119 (COM(2015) 440 final)**, **12046/15 VISA 288 COLAC 88 (COM(2015) 435 final)**.

<sup>2</sup> **12023/15 VISA 283 COASI 116 (COM(2015) 430 final)**, **12026/15 VISA 285 COASI 118 (COM(2015) 433 final)**, **12044/15 VISA 287 COASI 120 (COM(2015) 438 final)**, **12047/15 VISA 289 COLAC 89 (COM(2015) 436 final)**.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20.

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:

12076/15 VISA 294 COASI 121 (LA), 12084/15 VISA 297 COASI 124 (LA), 12090/15 VISA 300 COASI 127 (LA), 12093/15 VISA 303 COLAC 92 (LA).

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

12077/15 VISA 295 COASI 122 (LA), 12087/15 VISA 298 COASI 125 (LA), 12091/15 VISA 301 COASI 128 (LA), 12094/15 VISA 304 COLAC 93 (LA).

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 :

12080/15 VISA 296 COASI 123 (LA), 12089/15 VISA 299 COASI 126 (LA), 12092/15 VISA 302 COASI 129 (LA), 12095/15 VISA 305 COLAC 94 (LA).

7. Since the agreements are due to be provisionally applicable from the day following 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 12076/15 VISA 294 COASI 121 (LA), 12084/15 VISA 297 COASI 124 (LA), 12090/15 VISA 300 COASI 127 (LA), 12093/15 VISA 303 COLAC 92 (LA);
- b) decide to forward the draft Decision on conclusion as set out in 12080/15 VISA 296 COASI 123 (LA), 12089/15 VISA 299 COASI 126 (LA), 12092/15 VISA 302 COASI 129 (LA), 12095/15 VISA 305 COLAC 94 (LA) 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.

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