



Brussels, 26 October 2015
(OR. en)

12956/15

JAI 744
COMIX 485

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: the Mixed Committee at Ministerial level

Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the meeting of the Mixed Committee at Ministerial level on 8 and 9 October 2015

1. The future of the external border management policy = General debate 12616/15 FRONT 208 JAI 713 COMIX 461

Ministers discussed the future management of the external borders on the basis of the three questions submitted by the Presidency and set out in document 12616/15. Delegations agreed on the urgent need to reinforce the collective responsibility for the management of the external borders and to give more support to relevant Member States through hotspots and at the green borders. There was agreement to substantially reinforce Frontex' capacities in the short term within the existing framework. There was also general agreement to extend the role of Frontex in the medium term in order to meet swiftly the needs in emergency situations and to provide enhanced support. A number of delegations was in that context of the view that the responsibility for managing the borders should remain primarily in the hands of Member States. France presented orally some ideas providing for a short-term reinforcement of the system within the present framework, followed by a long-term more ambitious approach, involving a European System of Border Guards.

Regarding the use of new technologies, several delegations referred to the need to balance security and facilitation of travelling and looked forward to further proceedings on Smart Borders (revised proposals expected in the coming months).

A number of delegations highlighted the need of an effective Schengen evaluation system answering the challenges on the ground and ensuring the respect of relevant rules.

Delegations looked forward to the package on border measures expected from the Commission in the coming months.

2. The future of the return policy

- (a) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council concerning an EU Action Plan on return**
11846/15 MIGR 41 COMIX 389
 - (b) Commission Recommendation establishing a common 'Return Handbook' to be used by Member States' competent authorities when carrying out return related tasks**
11847/15 MIGR 42 COMIX 390
+ ADD 1
 - (c) Draft Council conclusions**
12420/15 MIGR 46 COMIX 441
+ COR 1
- = Presentation of the Commission proposals and general discussion**

Ministers held a general debate on the future of the return policy. They took note of the actions proposed by the Commission in this area. They also examined draft Council conclusions on the same topic.

3. Visa policy

- (a) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Union Code on visas (recast) (First reading)**
- (b) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a touring visa and amending the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement and Regulations (EC) No 562/2006 and (EC) No 767/2008 (First reading)**
 - = **Policy debate/Progress report**
 - 12382/15 VISA 314 CODEC 1248 COMIX 435**

The Presidency concluded that the suggestions set out in document 12382/15 would now frame the further proceedings in the Council preparatory bodies. This involves for the Visa Code in particular a coherent policy approach, taking fully into account ongoing efforts on readmission, security and borders, whilst also aiming at a positive impact of the visa policy on the wider European Union economy and, in particular, on tourism.

As regards the Touring visa, the scope of the draft Regulation should be limited to certain categories of applicants. The issue of bilateral agreements concluded by Member States with third countries, which allow for extending the duration of stays for the nationals of those countries, should be examined, taking into account also the future Entry/Exit system.

4. **Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and the free movement of such data (First reading)**

- = **State of play and general discussion**
- 12555/15 DATAPROTECT 154 JAI 707 DAPIX 163 FREMP 202**
- COMIX 456 CODEC 1279**

The Mixed Committee at Ministerial level discussed the draft Data Protection Directive with a view to the adoption of a general approach by the Council.

5. Any other business

No issues were raised under this item.