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7398/16

VISA 83
RHJ 12

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council

No. prev. doc.: 7059/16; 6831/16 RESTREINT UE; 6826/16 + COR 1; 6360/16 RESTREINT UE; 6171/16

No. Cion doc.: 12128/15 RESTREINT UE + ADD 1 RESTREINT UE

Subject: Adoption of a Council Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas

1. On 14 September 2015, the Commission submitted to the Council a recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas, together with negotiating directives, as set out in 12128/15 VISA 309 RHJ 11 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED and 12128/15 VISA 309 RHJ 11 ADD 1 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED respectively.
2. At its meetings on 30 September 2015, 26 October 2015, 7 December 2015 and 3 March 2016, the Visa Working Party examined the above recommendation and the negotiating directives.

3. Consequently, it was concluded that there was a basic consensus on revised versions of the draft Council Decision, as set out in 6826/16 VISA 61 RHJ 7 + COR 1, and of the negotiating directives, as set out in 6831/16 VISA 62 RHJ 8 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED.
4. In parallel with adoption of the above Council Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas, a Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate a readmission agreement with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is also to be adopted by the Council¹.
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/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 acquis²; the United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in its adoption 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/EC of 28 February 2002 concerning Ireland's request to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen acquis³; Ireland is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
7. In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol (No 22) on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

¹ See 6171/16 MIGR 25 RHJ 3.

² OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43.

³ OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20.

8. The text of the draft Council Decision, which has undergone the necessary scrutiny by the lawyer-linguists, is set out in 7072/16 VISA 83 RHJ 11.
9. On this basis, **the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest that the Council adopt the Council Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Union and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas, as set out in 7072/16 VISA 83 RHJ 11, which refers to the negotiating directives as set out in 6831/16 VISA 62 RHJ 8 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED, as an 'A' item at a forthcoming meeting.**
