



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 20 June 2018  
(OR. de)

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VISA 164  
COMIX 632

## DECLASSIFICATION

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| Subject:     | Revising the list of nationals subject to a visa obligation and of those exempt |

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Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.



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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 7 November 2002 (12.11)  
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**NOTE**

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from : German delegation  
to : Visa Working Party

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Subject : Revising the lists of nationals subject to a visa obligation and of those exempt

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The German delegation is of the opinion that the present arrangements on visa obligations or exemptions for third-country nationals effectively meet requirements as far as the assessment of immigration risks, security risks and political circumstances is concerned. Like other Member States, Germany is willing to examine the introduction of a visa requirement for Ecuador. Germany asks the Commission and the Member States proposing this introduction to supply factual material.

Germany also considers that action is needed to ensure rigorous implementation of arrangements previously agreed upon.

European provisions, essentially taken over from Schengen, on:

- the lists of countries subject to or exempt from visa obligations;
- visas and residence permits (replacement visas) as high-security documents;
- third-country nationals' right to travel within the Community;
- visa practices and
- consular cooperation

offer a well-honed and self-contained regulatory framework for EU visa policy. Disregarding the areas where improvement should and can be made, this EU visa regulatory framework has proved its worth in the issuing of Schengen visas.

The further development of visa policy must be measured, in particular, against requirements in practice and, for the case in hand, the implementation of existing arrangements. In this respect Germany endorses the reflections on strengthening the monitoring role of the **Visa Working Party**. In addition to this, a response must be given to new requirements. In this context Germany would refer to the requirements presented to the Council in the area of visas (Cf. **13176/01 JAI 120** and **8784/02 JAI 81**):

- The pace of work on the European visa database must be stepped up considerably. The Commission should be urged to press ahead with this process.
- Germany considers that consideration of the use of biometric features and methods in the visa system needs to be stepped up. The instruction to study the matter contained in the Regulation on visa stickers must be swiftly carried out. The Regulations on the form of visa stickers and residence permits need to be amended so that, in addition to the photograph, further biometric data (such as details on the holder's hands or face) can be incorporated into visa stickers and residence permits, if need be in encrypted form using chip technology. Such documents should be introduced first in focus and risk countries.

- Like other Member States, Germany considers it absolutely essential that the list of countries for consultation pursuant to Article 17(2) of the Schengen Convention (5B and 5C lists) be harmonised. The work commenced on this by Spain should be resumed immediately and should result in harmonisation. Germany has recently extended its national list by 15, bringing it up to 24. However, verification of security-related aspects requires that all Member States proceed as uniformly as possible; we should therefore make every effort to achieve closer alignment in this area.
- On the subject of adapting the Common Consular Instructions on Visas, Germany endorses France's opinion that guidelines should be drawn up for use in practice.
- It is also in the interests of the security of the visa system that the police and other law-enforcement authorities should have access to the information acquired in the process of consulting the central authorities pursuant to Article 17(2) of the Schengen Convention. This is necessary not only with regard to combating terrorism but also for the prevention of immigration and security risks. A clear legal basis is required for this purpose, as Article 17(2) of the Schengen Convention as it currently stands does not permit such use. The Commission should be requested to present a proposal to this end immediately.