



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

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PROCED

COMMUNICATION

WRITTEN PROCEDURE

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Subject: END OF WRITTEN PROCEDURE

Council Recommendation on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction

- Adoption

Delegations are informed that the written procedure, opened by CM 2829/20 of 29 June 2020, was completed on 30 June 2020 at 15:15. The required qualified majority has been reached. Therefore, the Council Recommendation on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction as set out in document ST 9147/20 is adopted.

A clean version of the text can be found in ST 9208/20.

The statements by Belgium, Germany and Slovenia are reproduced in the Annex to this CM.

The statements will be included in the summary of acts adopted by the written procedure as statements to be entered in the Council minutes, in accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

Statement of the Belgian Delegation

- Belgium chooses a cautious approach regarding the implementation of the Recommendation.
- The following category of persons will be exempted from travel restrictions, independent of the purpose of travel, starting from July 1, but will have to respect a period of self-quarantine: Union citizens within the meaning of Article 20(1) TFEU and third-country nationals who, under agreements between the Union and its Member States, on the one hand, and those third countries, on the other hand, enjoy rights of free movement equivalent to those of Union citizens, as well as their respective family members.
- The enlargement of the list of categories considered as essential travel to study purposes will depend on the possibility to restart the visa procedures at the Consulates. Regarding the category of highly qualified third-country workers, this still needs to be discussed with the competent regional authorities.
- Regarding the list of third countries for which the restrictions of non-essential travel may be lifted: Belgium will a priori not lift the restrictions regarding the countries for which Belgium still has doubts. The restrictions will only be lifted when there is sufficient clarity and certainty.

Statement of the German Delegation

From the point of view of Germany, the reference made to China in Annex I to the Council Recommendation also includes the Special Administrative Regions Hong Kong and Macau.

Protokollerklärung Deutschlands

Aus Sicht Deutschlands schließt die Bezugnahme auf China in Anhang I der Empfehlung des Rates auch die Sonderverwaltungszone Hong Kong und Macau ein.

Statement of the Slovenian Delegation

Slovenia would like to thank the Croatian Presidency and the European Commission for their efforts in preparing the EU coordinated approach regarding the lifting of the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU. Slovenia supports such coordinated approach.

Slovenia understands that the purpose of the document and its annexes is to agree on the criteria and on the list of third countries with relatively favorable epidemiological situation, towards which travel restrictions could be lifted. However, Slovenia also understands that the member states can apply stricter criteria when assessing the risk posed by epidemiological situation in third countries, and adopt stricter regime in relation to travel from those countries if this is deemed necessary for containing the spread of Covid-19 on its territory, than anticipated in the Recommendations.
