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'A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Council Recommendation (EU) 2020/912 on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction - Amendment of Annex I = Adoption

1. At its meeting on 14 June 2021, IPCR performed the bi-monthly assessment of the list of third countries included in Annex I of Recommendation (EU) 2020/912. In light of the most recent data from ECDC and EEAS, it proposed to add Albania, Lebanon, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Taiwan and United States of America to Annex I and to remove the requirement of confirmation of reciprocity as regards Hong Kong and Macao.
2. On 16 June 2021, the Permanent Representatives Committee approved the addition of Albania, Lebanon, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Taiwan and United States of America to Annex I and the removal of the requirement of confirmation of reciprocity as regards Hong Kong and Macao.

3. In light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee recommends that the Council, at one of its forthcoming meetings:
- adopt the text of the Council Recommendation (EU) 2020/912 as set out in the annex;
 - decide to publish the text of the Council Recommendation (EU) 2020/912 in the Official Journal, once it is adopted.
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COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**amending Council Recommendation (EU) 2020/912 on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article Article 77 (2) (b) and (e) and Article 292, first and second sentence thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 30 June 2020, the Council adopted a Recommendation on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction¹ ("Council Recommendation").
- (2) Since then, the Council adopted Recommendations (EU) 2020/1052², (EU) 2020/1144³, (EU) 2020/1186⁴, (EU) 2020/1551⁵, (EU) 2020/2169⁶, (EU) 2021/89⁷, (EU) 2021/132⁸, (EU) 2021/767⁹ and (EU) 2021/892¹⁰ amending Council Recommendation (EU) 2020/912 on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction.

¹ OJ L 208I, 1.7.2020, p. 1.
² OJ L 230, 17.7.2020, p. 26.
³ OJ L 248, 31.7.2020, p. 26.
⁴ OJ L 261, 11.8.2020, p. 83.
⁵ OJ L 354, 26.10.2020, p. 19.
⁶ OJ L 431, 21.12.2020, p. 75.
⁷ OJ L 33, 29.1.2021, p. 1.
⁸ OJ L 41, 4.2.2021, p. 1.
⁹ OJ L 165I, 11.5.2021, p. 66.
¹⁰ OJ L 198, 4.6.2021, p. 1.

- (3) On 20 May 2021, the Council adopted Recommendation 2021/816 amending Council Recommendation (EU) 2020/912 on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction¹¹ in order to update the criteria used to assess whether non-essential travel from third countries is safe and should be allowed.
- (4) The Council Recommendation provides that Member States should gradually lift the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU as from 1 July 2020 in a coordinated manner with regard to the residents of the third countries listed in Annex I to the Council Recommendation. Every two weeks, the list of third countries referred to in Annex I should be reviewed, and as the case may be updated, by the Council, after close consultation with the Commission and the relevant EU agencies and services following an overall assessment based on the methodology, criteria and information referred to in the Council Recommendation.
- (5) Discussions have since then taken place within the Council, in close consultation with the Commission and the relevant EU agencies and services, on the review of the list of third countries set out in Annex I to the Council Recommendation and in application of the criteria and methodology laid down in the Council Recommendation, as amended by Recommendation 2021/816. As a result of these discussions, the list of third countries set out in Annex I should be amended. In particular, Albania, Lebanon, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and United States of America should be added to the list, as well as Taiwan, under the category of entities and territorial authorities that are not recognised as states by at least one Member State. As regards Hong Kong and Macao, non-essential travel should now be possible without the requirement of reciprocity.

¹¹ OJ L 182, 21.5.2021, p. 1.

- (6) Border control is in the interest not only of the Member State at whose external borders it is carried out but of all Member States which have abolished internal border control. Member States should therefore ensure that measures taken at the external borders are coordinated in order to ensure a well functioning Schengen area. To that end, as of 18 June 2021, Member States should continue lifting the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU in a coordinated manner with regard to the residents of the third countries, Special Administrative Regions *and other entities and territorial authorities* listed in Annex I of the Council Recommendation as amended by this Recommendation.
- (7) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 22 on the Position of Denmark annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the TFEU, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Recommendation and is not bound by it or subject to its application. Given that this Recommendation builds upon the Schengen acquis, Denmark shall, in accordance with Article 4 of the said Protocol, decide within a period of six months after the Council has decided on this Recommendation whether it will implement it.
- (8) This Recommendation constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen acquis in which Ireland does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision 2002/192/EC¹²; Ireland is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
- (9) As regards Iceland and Norway, this Recommendation constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen acquis within the meaning of the Agreement concluded by the Council of the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the latter's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point A, of Council Decision 1999/437/EC¹³.

¹² Council Decision 2002/192/EC of 28 February 2002 concerning Ireland's request to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen acquis (OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20).

¹³ OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 31.

- (10) As regards Switzerland, this Recommendation constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen acquis within the meaning of the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point A, of Decision 1999/437/EC¹⁴ read in conjunction with Article 3 of Council Decision 2008/146/EC¹⁵.
- (11) As regards Liechtenstein, this Recommendation constitutes a development of provisions of the Schengen acquis within the meaning of the Protocol between the European Union, the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the accession of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis which fall within the area referred to in Article 1 point A, of Decision 1999/437/EC¹⁶ read in conjunction with Article 3 of Decision 2011/350/EU¹⁷.

¹⁴ OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 52.

¹⁵ Council Decision 2008/146/EC of 28 January 2008 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis (OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 1).

¹⁶ OJ L 160, 18.6.2011, p. 21.

¹⁷ Council Decision 2011/350/EU of 7 March 2011 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol between the European Union, the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the accession of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis, relating to the abolition of checks at internal borders and movement of persons (OJ L 160, 18.6.2011, p. 19).

HAS ADOPTED THIS RECOMMENDATION:

Council Recommendation (EU) 2020/912, as amended by Recommendation (EU) 2020/1052, by Recommendation (EU) 2020/1144, by Recommendation (EU) 2020/1186, by Recommendation (EU) 2020/1551, by Recommendation (EU) 2020/2169, by Recommendation (EU) 2021/89, by Recommendation (EU) 2021/132, by Recommendation (EU) 2021/767, by Recommendation (EU) 2021/816 and by Recommendation (EU) 2021/892 on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction is amended as follows:

- (1) First paragraph of point 1 of the Council Recommendation is replaced by the following:
 1. As from 18 June 2021, Member States should gradually lift the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU in a coordinated manner with regard to the residents of the third countries listed in Annex I.
- (2) Annex I to the Recommendation is replaced by the following:

Annex I

Third countries, Special Administrative Regions and other entities and territorial authorities whose residents should not be affected by temporary external borders restriction on non-essential travel into the EU:

I. STATES

1. ALBANIA
2. AUSTRALIA
3. ISRAEL
4. JAPAN
5. LEBANON
6. NEW ZEALAND
7. REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
8. RWANDA
9. SERBIA

10. SINGAPORE
11. SOUTH KOREA
12. THAILAND
13. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
14. CHINA*

II. SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Hong Kong SAR

Macao SAR

III. ENTITIES AND TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES THAT ARE NOT RECOGNISED AS STATES BY AT LEAST ONE MEMBER STATE

Taiwan

* subject to confirmation of reciprocity

Done at Brussels, 18 June 2021

For the Council

The President
