**Council of the
European Union**

**Brussels, 25 March 2022
(OR. en)**

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**VISA 153
COLAC 46**

DECLASSIFICATION

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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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**Council of the
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**Brussels, 30 April 2015
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8056/15

RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED

**VISA 153
COLAC 46**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	Visa Working Party
On:	7 April 2015
Subject:	Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on short-stay visa waiver agreements between the European Union and Colombia and Peru

The **Chair** reported on the outcome of the JHA Counsellors meeting on 26 March 2015, at which delegations raised concerns about the security of Columbian and Peruvian travel documents and insisted on the need to sign a readmission agreement in parallel. The Chair reported on the comments made by delegations on the information sent by the Commission following that meeting about the introduction of biometric passports in those countries.

The **representative of the Commission** (COM) repeated that the mandate for negotiating with the two countries did not provide for the visa waiver to be limited to the holders of biometric passports. COM added that a declaration by Colombia and Peru that they would endeavour to replace the existing passports by biometric passports could be a solution. In addition, COM stressed that negotiating a readmission agreement could not be envisaged at this stage for legal reasons. COM added that arrangements were already in place in the framework of the Political Cooperation and Dialogue Agreement (PCDA) with the Andean Community for some cooperation regarding irregular migration, and that those countries do not cause any major immigration problems.

ES supported COM. Moreover, ES said that Spain was one of the main destination countries for those nationalities and had not encountered major readmission problems, as the Peruvian and Columbian authorities cooperate with Spain to organise return flights.

PL also supported COM and stated that, according to Polish experts, the current travel documents from Colombia and Peru are reliable.

DE, supported by **SE, DK** and **CZ,** did not agree with COM and suggested that Colombia and Peru should each make a declaration in which they undertake to issue biometric passports by a fixed date and that the agreement can be suspended if those conditions are not met. **SE** also entered a reservation.

FR recalled that the procedure for allowing a visa waiver to those two countries had been unorthodox from the start since it had not been based on an impact assessment of the migratory risk. As a consequence, FR was of the opinion that specific requests by the Member States, such as limiting the visa waiver to biometric passports only, should be accepted at this stage. Moreover, FR stated that limiting the visa waiver agreements to the holders of biometric passports could be a positive stimulus for the third countries concerned. Finally, FR recalled the need to link visa liberalisation with readmission policy.

BE stressed the need for the provisions on readmission to be strongly worded, as regards deadlines and requirements, in a joint declaration.

The representative of the European External Action Service (EEAS) reminded those present of the importance of those agreements for Peru and Colombia, and stressed the need to convey a positive message to those countries during the EU-CELAC summit in June 2015.

COM repeated its arguments against the introduction of a requirement for biometric passports in the visa waiver agreement.

The **Chair** concluded that there was a need to find a compromise and stated that delegations would be kept informed of further proceedings on the file.