

Visa Package Proposal



Common Visa Policy



- A Common Visa Policy is a fundamental component of the creation of a common area without internal borders

The Visa Code



- The Visa Code sets out harmonised procedures and conditions for issuing short-stay visas
- The need to facilitate travel to Europe in a secure environment has gained increased political attention since the adoption of the Visa Code

Objectives of the Visa Code



- To establish the conditions and procedures for issuing visas for transit through the Schengen area
- To facilitate legitimate travel and tackle irregular immigration

Visa Code (recast)





- This proposal aims to identify further improvements that can be made to achieve a smarter common visa policy, which also increases the attractiveness of the EU for business, researchers, students, artists and culture professionals and which responds to current and future challenges.

Main Features of the Proposal



- To make it possible to lodge visa applications at other EU Member States' Consulates if the Member State competent for processing the visa application is not represented
- To distinguish clearly between different categories of visa applicants while taking into account the full roll out of the VIS

	Lodging in person	Collection of fingerprints	Supporting documents
First time applicant-not VIS registered	Yes	Yes	Full list corresponding to all entry conditions
VIS registered applicant (but not a regular traveller)	No	No, if fingerprints have been collected within the last 59 months	Full list corresponding to all entry conditions
VIS registered regular traveller	No	No	only proof of travel purpose Presumption (because of “visa history” of fulfilment of entry conditions regarding migratory and security risk and sufficient means of subsistence)



- To introduce substantial facilitation for regular travellers including issuing of multiple entry visas valid for three years
- To introduce a simplified application form and allowing for online applications



- The maximum deadline for lodging an application has been increased to allow travellers to plan ahead and avoid peak seasons (from 3 to 6 months)
- The general visa application form (Annex I) has been simplified
- The list of supporting documents in Annex II is no longer a “non-exhaustive list”



- To introduce the possibility for Member States to devise special schemes granting visas at the borders up to 15 days in one Schengen State
- To introduce the possibility for Member States to facilitate the issuing of visa for visitors attending major events



- To reinforce the equal treatment of visa applicants by clarifying a number of issues in order to enhance the harmonised application of the legislative provisions
- To strengthen the legal framework regarding information to the public:
 - ❑ A common Schengen visa internet website is to be created by the Commission
 - ❑ A template for the information to be given to visa applicants is to be developed by the Commission



- To abolish the obligatory travel medical insurance
- To reduce the deadline for processing and taking a decision from 15 to 10 days
- To introduce the obligation on the Central authorities consulted to reply definitely within 3 calendar days after being consulted



- To facilitate family contacts by introducing certain procedural facilitations for close relatives coming to visit Union citizens residing in the territory of the Member States

Touring Visa





- A new type of visa (touring visa) allowing legitimate travellers to circulate in the Schengen area for up to 1 year (without staying in one Member State for more than 90 days in any 180-day period)



- Students, researchers, culture professionals, pensioners, business people, service providers as well as tourists may also wish to stay longer than 90 days in any 180-day period in the Schengen area.

Views?



THANK YOU