

Third countries whose nationals are subject to or exempt from a visa requirement

2012/0309(COD) - 08/11/2013 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs adopted the report by Mariya GABRIEL (EPP, BG) the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders of Member States and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading, following the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission proposal as follows:

- **United Arab Emirates (UAE):** given that the UAE fulfil the conditions laid down in the regulation for visa waiver to the same extent as the countries which are already mentioned in the text of the regulation, Members called for this country to be added to the list laid down in Annex II of the Regulation – the positive list;
- **Peru and Colombia:** to ensure regional coherence with other countries in this geographical area, Members called for the positive list to include Peru and Colombia;
- **Determining criteria for the composition of the lists:** a new Article has been added stipulating that the determination of the third countries whose nationals are subject to, or exempt from, the visa requirement shall be made on the basis of a **considered, case-by-case assessment** of a variety of criteria relating, inter alia, to irregular immigration, public policy and security, and the **Union's external relations with the relevant third countries**, including, in particular, respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Consideration shall also be given to the **implications of regional coherence and reciprocity**.
- **Information to the European Parliament:** Members requested the Commission to inform it on a regular basis about the situation with regard to the negotiations of bilateral agreements for visa exemptions, as well as about whether third countries whose nationals benefit from an exemption from the visa requirement continue to meet the criteria which led to that exemption. The Commission shall present, at least annually, a report to the European Parliament and to the Council summarising its activities and findings in that regard.