EU/Palau Agreement: short-stay visa waiver

2015/0193(NLE) - 21/10/2015 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Palau on the short--stay visa waiver.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the Commission has negotiated on behalf of the European Union an agreement with the Republic of Palau on the short-stay visa waiver.

The Agreement and the Protocol were signed in accordance with a Council Decision and apply on a provisional basis.

The Agreement and the Protocol should now be approved.

CONTENT: the draft Council decision aims to **approve the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Palau on the short-stay visa waiver on behalf of the Union.**

The Agreement provides for visa-free travel for the citizens of the European Union and for the citizens of Palau when travelling to the territory of the other Contracting Party for a **maximum period of 90 days in any 180-day period.**

Scope: the visa waiver covers all categories of persons (ordinary, diplomatic, service/official and special passport holders) travelling for all kinds of purposes, except for the purpose of carrying out a paid activity.

The provisions of the Agreement do not apply to the **United Kingdom or to Ireland**.

The Agreement sets up a **Joint Committee of experts** for the management of the Agreement. The Union is to be represented within that Joint Committee by the Commission, which should be assisted by the representatives of the Member States.