Community code on visas (Visa Code): conditions and procedures for issuing visas

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The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs adopted the report by Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR (S&D, ES) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code).

Objective: the Regulation seeks to lay down the conditions and procedures for issuing visas for intended stays on the territory of the Member States not exceeding 90 days in any 180-days period, and intended stays by **Sport and Culture Professionals** for up to one year without staying more than 90 days in any 180-day period in any single Member State.

When applying this Regulation, Member States shall act in full compliance with relevant Union law, including the **Charter of Fundamental Rights** of the European Union, relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

The European Commission shall present an **electronic visa application, Evisa, by 2025**.

Practical arrangements for submitting an application: applications may be lodged no more than **nine months** before the start of the intended visit and, as a rule, **no later than 15 calendar days** before that start. In justified individual cases of urgency, including when it is necessary on professional grounds, on humanitarian grounds, for reasons of national interest or because of international obligations, the consulate may waive the latter time limit.

In an electronic procedure, in the event of failure to reply within one month of the submission of the application, provision shall be made for a remedy to enable the application to be examined in any event.

Applicants may submit their applications **in person or electronically**. In order to allow external service providers to verify that biometric identifiers have been collected, the applicant shall be issued a receipt after the collection of his biometric identifiers.

Members removed the requirement for visa applicants to submit travel medical insurance when applying for a short-stay visa.

Visa fees: the visa fee shall be set at **EUR 80**. They shall be **EUR 60** for applicants whose data are already registered in the Visa Information System and whose biometric identifiers have been collected, as well as for applicants who are part of a group travelling for sporting, cultural or educational activities. The visa fees for minors (12-18 years old) shall be set at **EUR 40**.

Children under 12 years of age and family members of a Union citizen referred to in Directive 2004/38 /EC shall be exempt from fees. Applicants for visas with limited territorial validity issued on humanitarian grounds, for reasons of national interest or international obligations, as well as beneficiaries of EU resettlement programmes or relocation programme may also be exempt from fees.

Decision on the application: applications shall be decided within **10 calendar days** of the date of the lodging of an application, or within **five calendar days** for visa applicants whose data are already recorded in the Visa Information System and whose biometric identifiers have been collected in accordance with the Regulation.

That period may be extended up to a maximum of **30 calendar days** in individual cases, notably when further scrutiny of the application is needed.

Applications shall be decided on without delay in justified individual cases of urgency, including when it is necessary on professional grounds, on humanitarian grounds, for reasons of national interest or because of international obligations.

Multiple-entry visas: these visas shall be issued to regular travellers for a period of validity gradually increasing from 1 year to 5 years provided that the applicant has obtained, within the previous three years, a multiple-entry visa valid for two years and has made legal use of it.

Cooperation on readmission: in the case of satisfactory cooperation or lack of cooperation by certain third countries to readmit their nationals apprehended in an irregular situation and either satisfactory willingness or failure of those third countries to cooperate effectively in the return process, a **restrictive and temporary application of certain provisions** of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 should be applied to enhance a given third country's cooperation on readmission of irregular migrants, or to encourage its continuation.

The Commission shall regularly assess, **at least once a year**, relevant third countries' cooperation with regard to readmission, taking account of a number of indicators.

Visa refusal: the decision to refuse and the reasons for it shall be communicated to the applicant using the standard form, in a language that the applicant understands or can reasonably be assumed to understand. The deadline for appeal shall be at least **30 calendar days**. Member States shall ensure that consulates have a complaints procedure in place for visa applicants. Information on this procedure shall be published on its website.