# Third-country nationals exempt from visa: period of free travelling within the Member states. Initiative Portugal

2000/0806(CNS) - 05/06/2000 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: adoption of a Council Regulation on the period during which third country nationals exempt from visa requirements are free to travel within the territory of the Member States. CONTENT: This proposal, put forward on the initiative of Portugal, sets out the conditions under which nationals of third countries are to have the freedom to travel within the territory of the Member States during a period of no more than three months. Provision is made for measures enabling a further three-month period to be granted, on a reciprocal basis, for nationals of countries exempt from visa requirements for the purposes of crossing the external borders of the Member States. In order to benefit from this right, the following conditions must be fulfilled: - they possess a valid document or documents authorising them to cross the border of the Member State; - they produce, if necessary, documents establishing the purpose and conditions of the intended stay and they have sufficient means of subsistence, both for the period of the intended stay and for the return to their country of origin or transit to a third country into which they are certain to be admitted, or are in a positions to acquire such means lawfully; - they are not persons for whom an alert has been issued for the purposes of refusing entry; - they are not considered to be a threat to the public policy, national security or international relations of any of the member States. International agreements may be negotiated, on a reciprocal basis, between the Community and third countries whose nationals do not require visas, in order to determine the conditions under which a second period of not more than three months may be granted, for nationals of those countries, during the twelve months following the date on which they first crossed the external border of a Member State, where appropriate within the six-month period mentioned above. The Regulation shall apply to those Member States which have signed protocols of accession to the Schengen agreements as from the dates set by the Council, acting unanimously among its members referred to in Art 1 of the Protocol to the integrating the Schengen acquis into the framework of the European Union, unless the conditions for the accession of any of those States to the Schengen acquis are fulfilled before the date of entry into force of this Regulation.