Basic information

2001/0232(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure completed
Visas: uniform format Amending Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 1994/0163(CNS) **Subject** 7.10.04 External borders crossing and controls, visas	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	SOUSA PINTO Sérgio (PSE)	29/05/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
PETI Petitions	FOURTOU Janelly (PPE-DE)	10/07/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2409	2002-02-18

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Justice and Consumers	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
31/05/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/10/2001	Legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0577	Summary
04/12/2001	Vote in committee		
04/12/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0445/2001	
12/12/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0669/2001	Summary
18/02/2002	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		

18/02/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
23/02/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/0232(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Amending Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 1994/0163(CNS)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 062
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/5/14605

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0445/2001	04/12/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0669/2001 OJ C 177 25.07.2002, p. 0079-0128 E	12/12/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2001)0577 OJ C 051 26.02.2002, p. 0219 E	09/10/2001	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2002/0334
OJ L 053 23.02.2002, p. 0007-0008 Summary

Visas: uniform format

2001/0232(CNS) - 18/02/2002 - Final act

PURPOSE: To lay down a uniform format for visas. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation 334/2002/EC amending Regulation 1683/95/EC laying down a uniform format for visas. CONTENT: In line with recent technological changes which have taken place and which have been adopted under the Vienna Action Plan of 1998, this current Regulation updates and amends Regulation 1683/95 on the laying down of a uniform visa format. New elements have been added to the format for visas, including security requirement which incorporate enhanced anti-forgery, counterfeiting and falsification standards. Similarly, technical standards and methods are to be used for the filling in of uniform visas. The colours of the visa sticker may be changed. The Commission will be assisted by Committee. An integrated photo, produced to the highest security standards is to be included in the visa - at the latest five years after the adoption of the technical measures. Under the terms of the Protocol on the United Kingdom and Ireland annexed to the Treaty of European Union the United Kingdom has given notice that it will apply this Regulation. Ireland has notified the Community that it is not participating in the adoption of this Regulation. As regards the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway, this Regulation will have certain consequences for them under the Schengen acquis. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 15/03/02.

Visas: uniform format

2001/0232(CNS) - 12/12/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mr Sérgio SOUSA PINTO (PES, P) subject to amendments. The Parliament proposes that the visas issued by the Member States shall correspond to a uniform format which may consist of a sticker or a stand-alone document, the specifications of which are shown in the Annex, together with the space for information. The uniform format shall contain a space reserved for a photograph identifying the person concerned. There is also an amendment concerning the arrangements and conditions for inserting the photograph of the person concerned in the uniform format for visas, the integration of the photo shall be implemented at the latest two years after the adoption of the measures instead of five years as proposed by the Commission.

Visas: uniform format

2001/0232(CNS) - 09/10/2001 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: To harmonise rules on a uniform format for visas. CONTENT: The proposed amendment to Regulation 1683/95 on the laying down of a uniform format for visas modifies the Commission's amendments proposed initially in March 2001 (CNS 0080). The perceived need to introduce stricter security measures aimed at preventing fraud and counterfeiting of visas has been given added urgency since the attacks in America on 11 September. Both the Justice and Home Affairs Council as well as the European Council meeting at the end of September emphasised the need to take swift action in order to stop the spread of terrorism. In line with this thinking, Member States deem existing security standards vis-a-vis visas in urgent need of further improvements. Accordingly, they wish to introduce modern technologies to combat not only document fraud but also the fraudulent use of the visa format. With this proposal the Commission is seeking to take concrete action whereby technical committees will be given the power to take measures on: - The integration of a photograph produced according to high security standards, thus establishing a more reliable link between the holder and the visa format. The integration of the photograph will also open the way to a future storage visa information system with search possibilities. - The possibility to change the colours of the visa format, if an urgent need occurs to counteract forgeries. Implementation powers will be delegated to the Commission with the assistance of the Committee created by Article 6 of Regulation 1683/95. This procedure will establish the technical specifications to render the documents compatible with the required security standards. The system allows for continuous peer control and adaptations as and when new situations arise.