Basic information

2003/0815(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Free movement of persons: signs at external border crossing points. Initiative Greece **Subject** 7.10 Free movement and integration of third-country nationals	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	DEPREZ Gérard (PPE-DE)	09/07/2003
Council of the European Union	**Council configuration**	**Meetings**	**Date**
	Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2579	2004-04-29

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/05/2003	Legislative proposal published	08830/2003	Summary
05/06/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/11/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
04/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0366/2003	
18/11/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0490/2003	Summary
29/04/2004	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
29/04/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/08/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/0815(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 062-p2

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/5/19641

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0366/2003	04/11/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0490/2003 OJ C 087 07.04.2004, p. 0022-0042 E	18/11/2003	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	08830/2003 OJ C 125 27.05.2003, p. 0006-0010	13/05/2003	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2004/0581
OJ L 261 06.08.2004, p. 0119-0124 Summary

Free movement of persons: signs at external border crossing points. Initiative Greece

2003/0815(CNS) - 29/04/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE: To determine the minimum indications to be used on signs at external border crossing points.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2004/581 determining the minimum indications to be used on signs at external border crossing points.

CONTENT: The purpose of this Decision is to update existing indications on signs at external air border crossing points marking the channels for persons entering the territory of the Member States. It also establishes, in a uniform manner, the indications for new signs marking the passenger channels at external land and sea borders. In order to enact this Decision the following provisions have been agreed:

- Member States must provide separate lanes at authorised air border crossing points at their external borders in order to carry out the necessary border check on persons entering their territory. The same signs are to be used in cases where Member States provide separate lanes at land and sea border crossing points at their external borders.

- The sings, which are electronic, are set out in Annexes attached to the Decision.

- Citizens of the EU, nationals of States parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, nationals of the Swiss Confederation and members of families who benefit from the provisions of Community law on the free movement of citizens of the EU are entitled to use the lane indicated by the sign in Annex I. They may also use the lane indicated by the sign in Annex II.

- All other third-country nationals must use the lane indicated in Annex II. These rules may be waived in the event of a temporary imbalance in the traffic flows at a particular border point.

- At land and seaport border crossing points, Member States may separate vehicle traffic into different lanes for light and heavy vehicles and buses, by using signs as shown in Annex III.

Denmark, the United Kingdom and Ireland will not be taking part in the adoption of this Decision

DATE OF APPLICATION: This Decision shall apply from 1 June 2004 in so far as Member States set up new signs or replace existing signs at border crossing points covered by this Decision. In all other cases, this Decision shall apply from 1 June 2009.

Free movement of persons: signs at external border crossing points. Initiative Greece

2003/0815(CNS) - 18/11/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Gerard DEPREZ (EPP-ED, France) and made some amendments to the Greek proposal. (Please see the summary dated 04/11/03.)

Free movement of persons: signs at external border crossing points. Initiative Greece

2003/0815(CNS) - 13/05/2003 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to present a draft initiative of the Hellenic Republic with a view to adopting a Council Decision determining the minimum indications to be used on signs at external border crossing points. CONTENT : it is necessary to update the existing indications on signs at external air border crossing points marking the channels for persons entering and/or leaving the territory of the Member States. The aim of this proposal is to determine, in a uniform manner, the minimum indications for new signs marking the passenger channels at external land and sea borders, where such channels are used. It is foreseen that Member States shall provide separate lanes at authorised air border crossing points at their external borders in order to carry out the necessary border checks on persons entitled under Community law and other persons. The lanes shall be differentiated by means of specific signs. The same signs shall be used if Member States wish to provide separate lanes at land and sea border crossing points at their external borders. The indications on the signs, which may be displayed electronically, shall be as follows: - the emblem of the European Union with the letters "EU", "EEA" and "CH" within the circle of stars and the word "CITIZENS" beneath the circle of stars (Annex I); - the words "ALL NATIONALITIES (Annex II)"; Citizens of the EU, nationals of States parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area and nationals of the Swiss Confederation shall, as a general rule, use the lane indicated by the sign in Annex I. All other third-country nationals shall use the lane indicated by the sign in Annex II. However, in the event of a temporary imbalance in the traffic flows at a particular border crossing point, this general rule may be waived by the competent authorities for the time necessary to eliminate such imbalance. At land border crossing points, Member States may separate vehicle traffic into different lanes for light and heavy vehicles, by using specific signs. TERRITORIAL APPLICATION : Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Decision, and is not bound by it or subject to its application. It shall decide within a period of six months after the Council has adopted this Decision whether it will implement it in its national law. On the other hand, the UK and Ireland are not taking part in the adoption of the present text in accordance with Council Decision 2000/365/EC and Council Decision 2002/192/EC. Iceland and Norway shall take part in the implementation of the present Decision.