Basic information

2005/0169(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Visas: procedures for applying for and issuing visas for members of the Olympic family taking part in the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Torino **Subject** 4.10.13 Sport 7.10.04 External borders crossing and controls, visas	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	ZAPPALA' Stefano (PPE-DE)	04/10/2005

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CULT Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2696	2005-12-01

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Justice and Consumers	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/09/2005	Legislative proposal published	COM(2005)0412	Summary
27/09/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
13/10/2005	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
21/10/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A6-0313/2005	
15/11/2005	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T6-0423/2005	Summary

15/11/2005	Results of vote in Parliament		
01/12/2005	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
14/12/2005	Final act signed		
14/12/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/12/2005	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2005/0169(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 062-p2-aa
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/6/30295

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0313/2005	21/10/2005	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0423/2005	15/11/2005	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	03656/1/2005	14/12/2005	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2005)0412	07/09/2005	Summary
Follow-up document	SEC(2008)0034	17/01/2008	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date

Final act

Regulation 2005/2046
OJ L 334 20.12.2005, p. 0001 Summary

Visas: procedures for applying for and issuing visas for members of the Olympic family taking part in the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Torino

2005/0169(COD) - 14/12/2005 - Final act

PURPOSE : to facilitate Procedures for applying for and issuing visas to members of the Olympic family taking part in the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Italy.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Regulation 2046/2005/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council.

CONTENT : this Regulation establishes specific provisions introducing a temporary derogation from certain provisions of the Schengen acquis concerning the procedures for applying for and issuing visas and the uniform format of visas for members of the Olympic family for the duration of the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Turin.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 09/01/2006.

Visas: procedures for applying for and issuing visas for members of the Olympic family taking part in the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Torino

2005/0169(COD) - 07/09/2005 - Legislative proposal

Based on the successful experience of the Greek authorities in the use of Regulation (EC) No 1295/2003 regarding measures envisaged to facilitate the procedures for applying for and issuing visas for members of the Olympic family taking part in the 2004 Olympic or Paralympic Games in Athens, it is planned that the EU should adopt a nearly identical regime to enable Italy, host country for the Torino 2006 Winter Games, to honour the obligation taken in compliance with the Olympic Charter.

Although it maintained the visa obligation for members of the Olympic family who are subject to that requirement under Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals fall under the visa duty when crossing the external borders, as well as exemptions from the latter, Regulation (EC) No 1295/2003 provided facilitating procedures for submitting a collective application for Members of the Olympic family via the Olympic accreditation system, for simplifying the supporting documents requirement and for allowing the visa to be issued in the format of special visa number to be included on the Olympic accreditation card. Furthermore, controls at the external borders for the Members of the Olympic family were limited to the strictly necessary, taking into account the specific provisions on visas. The derogation system was in place only for the duration of the Athens 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The introduction of a similar derogation system for the Torino 2006 Games is justified, even if the number of participants in the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games is expected to be smaller than in the Athens 2004 Games. The estimated number of visa required for the participating in the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games is 3.000 cases.

In this context, the present proposal follows the same principles as Regulation (EC) No 1295/2003: it maintains the visa requirement for members of the Olympic family who, because of their nationality, are subject to that requirement under Regulation (EC) No 539/2001; the arrangements proposed are aimed merely at facilitating both the procedures for submitting applications and the form in which visas are issued; the derogation will apply only for the duration of the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. This period runs — for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games — from 10 January 2006 (one month before the official opening on 10 February) to 26 March 2006 (one month after the closure of the Games on 26 February) and — for the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games — from 10 February 2006 (one month before the official opening on 10 March) to 19 April 2006 (one month after the closure of the Games on 19 March).

Because of the very satisfactory functioning of Regulation (EC) No 1295/2003, the proposal “copies” its provisions, solely adapting it to the 2006 Olympics and Paralympic Winter Games.

Visas: procedures for applying for and issuing visas for members of the Olympic family taking part in the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Torino

2005/0169(COD) - 17/01/2008 - Follow-up document

This report has been prepared by the Commission in accordance with provisions set out in Regulation (EC) No 2046/2005 concerning visa conditions for members of the winter Olympic team, Turin 2006. To recall, the Regulation was based on a similar, successful, Regulation adopted for the 2005 Athens summer Olympics in Greece. The main purpose of both the Turin and Athens Regulations was to facilitate the procedures for applying for, and issuing visas to, those participating in the Olympic games. In short, a specific, temporary system was adopted that derogated from the normal procedure for issuing visas.

Article 10 of the Turin Regulation requires Italy to forward a report to the Commission on the functioning and implementation of Regulation (EC) No 2046/2005. The Commission received the Italian response on 27 September 2006. The contents of the Italian report form the basis of this Commission staff working paper. In addition, the Commission received responses from most of the EU Member States, Norway and Iceland concerning the Regulation's implementation.

In summary, the report finds that the total number of pre-accreditation applications submitted was 36 323, 5 282 of which were applications for the Paralympics Games. Out of this number 2 710 were submitted by third country nationals subject to the visa obligation under Regulation (EC) No 539 /2001 (2 384 for the Olympic Games and 326 for the Paralympics Games). During the period of the Games 26 428 people were actually accredited as members of the Olympic family, 2 425 of them requiring visas. Out of the total number 22 441 people (of which 2 137 required visas) were accredited to the Olympic team and 3 987 (of which 288 required a visa) to the Paralympics Games. Thus approximately 9 % of the total number of accredited Olympic family members benefited from the visa facilitation procedure provided by Regulation (EC) No 2046/2005. In addition to the numbers quoted above, around 70 000 accreditations were issued to members of the workforce and about 20 000 to members of law enforcement agencies (not specified by the Italian report), who were not considered to be Olympic family members. Members of the workforce subject to visa requirement obtained their visas from Italian consulates and did not come under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 2046/2005.

The report finds that high security standards were met at all times during the application of the Regulation and that no specific violations were observed. Once the Games had finished no members of the Olympic family remained in Italy unlawfully. Further, during the Olympic Games (covering a three week period in February 2006) an operational cooperation programme was established at an EU level, with the support of FRONTEX, in order to strengthen security at external borders. Twenty-four airports in 16 Member States were involved in the project and a FRONTEX liaison officer was assigned to Turin to help the Italian authorities on border management. The Italian authorities reported only one applicant who failed to meet the conditions set by the Regulation for entering the Schengen area. Checks showed that an alert was issued against this one individual on the SIS.

To conclude, on the basis of information submitted by the Italian authorities and 13 Member States, the Commission finds that in spite of some minor incidents, the Regulation was a success. It succeeded in reconciling visa requirements for members of the Olympic team with the right of the Olympic team to gain access to the territory of the host country. The provisions offered an effective and flexible visa regime that proved capable of offering a high level of security.

The report does note, however, that to prepare separate Regulations that derogate from the standard visa requirements, for every Olympic event held in the EU would be both time consuming and superfluous. The Commission has, as a result, tabled a proposal (in the framework of establishing a Community Code on Visas), to establish permanent provisions for facilitating procedure for members taking part in the Olympic Games.

Visas: procedures for applying for and issuing visas for members of the Olympic family taking part in the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Torino

2005/0169(COD) - 15/11/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Stefano **ZAPPALA'** (EPP-ED, IT) and approved the proposal.