Basic information

2012/0138(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	Procedure completed
EU/Ukraine Visa Facilitation Agreement: amendments and additions See also 2007/0069(CNS) **Subject** 6.40.02 Relations with central and eastern Europe 7.10.04 External borders crossing and controls, visas **Geographical area** Ukraine	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	MORAES Claude (S&D)	11/10/2012

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	KOWAL Paweł Robert (ECR)	12/09/2012

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	3237	2013-05-15

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Migration and Home Affairs	MALMSTRÖM Cecilia

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/07/2012	Preparatory document	COM(2012)0266	Summary
17/07/2012	Legislative proposal published	12282/2012	Summary
11/09/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/02/2013	Vote in committee		

05/03/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0059/2013	Summary
16/04/2013	Debate in Parliament		
18/04/2013	Decision by Parliament	T7-0177/2013	Summary
18/04/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/05/2013	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
15/05/2013	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/06/2013	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2012/0138(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	See also 2007/0069(CNS)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 077-p2 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/7/10008

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE504.019	21/01/2013	
Committee opinion	AFET	PE500.439	22/01/2013	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0059/2013	05/03/2013	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0177/2013	18/04/2013	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	11044/2012	17/07/2012	
Legislative proposal	12282/2012	17/07/2012	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary

Preparatory document	COM(2012)0266	05/07/2012	Summary

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 2013/0297 OJ L 168 20.06.2013, p. 0010	Summary

EU/Ukraine Visa Facilitation Agreement: amendments and additions

2012/0138(NLE) - 05/03/2013 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs adopted the recommendation by Claude MORAES (S&D, UK) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas.

The committee recommends the European Parliament to give its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement which will facilitate citizens' lives and strengthen people-to-people contact, making travel conditions easier for ordinary citizens.

EU/Ukraine Visa Facilitation Agreement: amendments and additions

2012/0138(NLE) - 18/04/2013 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas.

Parliament consents to the conclusion of the Agreement.

EU/Ukraine Visa Facilitation Agreement: amendments and additions

2012/0138(NLE) - 13/05/2013 - Final act

PURPOSE: to conclude the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine amending the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on the facilitation of the issuance of visas.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2013/297/EU on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas.

BACKGROUND: in accordance with Council Decision 2012/428/EU, the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas was signed on 23 July 2012, subject to its conclusion.

It is now appropriate to approve the agreement on behalf of the European Union.

CONTENT: by means of this Decision, the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas, which entered into force on 1 January 2008, is amended as follows:

- simplified requirements for documents to be presented regarding the purpose of the journey for certain categories of applicants;
- clarification of the provisions on the period of validity of multiple-entry visas for certain categories of applicants;
- the possibility of charging a fee of EUR 70 in case of urgent applications;

- a full waiving of the visa fee for certain categories of applicants;
- the possibility for an external service provider, with whom a Member State cooperates in view of issuing a visa, to charge a service fee of up to EUR 30;
- the requirement that appointments for lodging an application, where required, shall, as a rule, take place within a period of two weeks from the date when the appointment was requested;
- the exemption from the visa requirement for short stays for the citizens of Ukraine who are holders of biometric service passports.

It should be noted that in response to a specific request from Ukraine, a declaration on behalf of the European Union is annexed to the amending agreement in respect of:

- documents to be submitted when applying for short stay visas;
- facilitations for family members not covered by the legally binding provisions of the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

Territorial measures: the specific situations of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom are reflected in the preamble of the amending agreement. The association of Switzerland and Liechtenstein in the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis* is reflected in a Joint Declaration to the amending Agreement.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Decision enters into force on 13.05.2013. The date of the entry into force of the agreement shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

EU/Ukraine Visa Facilitation Agreement: amendments and additions

2012/0138(NLE) - 05/07/2012

PURPOSE: to conclude an Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the Visa Facilitation Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine has been in force since 1 January 2008.

Article 12 of the Visa Facilitation Agreement establishes a Joint Committee tasked *inter alia* with monitoring the implementation of the Agreement and suggesting amendments and additions thereto. The Joint Committee, at its 6th meeting on 5 May 2011 in Brussels endorsed suggestions for amendments and additions to the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

At political level, at the 8th EU-Ukraine Ministerial Meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security on 9 June 2010, the Parties looked forward to constructive negotiations on possible amendments to the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

On that basis the Commission presented on 29 October 2010 a recommendation to the Council in order to authorise the Commission to open negotiations with Ukraine on an Agreement amending the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

Following the authorisation given by the Council on 11 April 2011, the negotiations with Ukraine on an Agreement amending the Visa Facilitation Agreement were opened in Brussels on 6 May 2011. Three further rounds of negotiations took place on 11 July 2011 in Kiev and on 9 November 2011 and 14 December 2011 in Brussels. The final text of the amending Agreement was initialled in February 2012 by the chief negotiators.

Member States have been regularly informed and consulted in the relevant Council Working Groups at all stages of the negotiations.

The European Parliament should also approve the amending Agreement.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was carried out.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 77(2a), in conjunction with Article 218 (6)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: this proposed Decision hereby concludes the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas. It amends the 2008 Agreement as follows:

(1) simplified requirements for documents to be presented regarding the purpose of the journey for the following categories of applicants:

- drivers conducting international cargo and passenger transportation services and journalists: have been reviewed.
- members of the technical crew accompanying journalists, participants in official exchange programmes organised by municipal entities other than twin cities, close relatives of EU citizens residing in the territory of the Member State of which they are nationals, persons accompanying persons visiting for medical reasons, representatives of civil society organisations undertaking trips for the purposes of educational training, seminars, conferences, members of the professions participating in international exhibitions, conferences, symposia, seminars or other similar events, representatives of religious communities, and participants in official EU cross-border cooperation programmes: have been introduced;

(2) clarification of the provisions on the period of validity of multiple-entry visas for the following categories of applicants:

- the categories listed in Article 5(1) of the Visa Facilitation Agreement as well as national and regional prosecutors and their deputies, spouses, children and parents visiting citizens of the European Union residing in the territory of the Member State of which they are nationals, and the technical crew accompanying journalists in a professional capacity:
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in principle, multiple-entry visas valid for five years shall be issued. Multiple-entry visas with a shorter period of validity shall only be issued where the expiry date of the travel document requires this or where the need or the intention to travel frequently or regularly is manifestly limited to a shorter period;

- the categories listed in Article 5(2) of the Visa Facilitation Agreement as well as participants in official exchange programmes organised by municipal entities other than twin cities, representatives of civil society organisations travelling regularly to Member States for the purposes of educational training, seminars, conferences, participants in official EU cross-border cooperation programmes, students and postgraduate students who regularly travel for the purposes of study or educational training, representatives of the religious communities, members of the professions participating in international exhibitions, conferences, symposia, seminars or other similar events held in the territory of the Member States, persons needing to visit regularly for medical reasons and necessary accompanying persons:
- in principle, multiple-entry visas valid for one year shall be issued. Multiple-entry visas with a shorter period of validity shall only be issued where the expiry date of the travel document requires this or where the need or the intention to travel frequently or regularly is manifestly limited to a shorter period;

(3) the possibility of charging a fee of EUR 70 in case of urgent applications:

- is abolished for cases, where the visa application and supporting documents are submitted by the visa applicant without justification only three days or less before his/her departure;
- is introduced for cases, where based on the distance between the applicant's place of residence and the place where the application has been submitted, the applicant has requested that a decision on the application be taken within three days of its submission and the consulate has accepted to take a decision within three days;

(4) a full waiving of the visa fee for the following additional categories of applicants:

close relatives of citizens of the European Union residing in the territory of the Member State of which they are nationals, participants in official exchange programmes organised by other municipal entities than twin cities, the technical crew accompanying journalists in a professional capacity, representatives of the religious communities, members of the professions participating in international exhibitions, conferences, symposia, seminars or other similar events, participants aged 25 years or less in seminars, conferences, sports, cultural or educational events, organised by non-profit organisations, representatives of civil society organisations undertaking trips for the purposes of educational training, seminars, conferences, participants in official EU cross-border cooperation programmes;

(5) the possibility for an external service provider, with whom a Member State cooperates in view of issuing a visa, to charge a service fee of up to EUR 30, while maintaining the possibility of all applicants to lodge their applications directly at a consulate;

(6) the requirement that appointments for lodging an application, where required, shall, as a rule, take place within a period of two weeks from the date when the appointment was requested;

(7) the exemption from the visa requirement for short stays for the citizens of Ukraine who are holders of biometric service passports.

It should be noted that a European Union declaration on the provision containing this exemption from the visa requirement is attached to the amending Agreement. The amending Agreement clarifies that this does not affect the applicability of provisions of existing bilateral Agreements or arrangements between individual Member States and Ukraine on the exemption of the holders of non-biometric service passports from the visa requirement for short stays. Replying to a specific request formulated by Ukraine, a European Union Declaration is attached to the amending Agreement on:

- documents to be submitted when applying for short stay visas;

- facilitations for family members not covered by the legally binding provisions of the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

Territorial applications: the specific situations of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom are reflected in the preamble. The association of Switzerland and Liechtenstein to the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis is reflected in a Joint Declaration to the amending Agreement.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: this proposal has no implications for the EU budget.

EU/Ukraine Visa Facilitation Agreement: amendments and additions

2012/0138(NLE) - 17/07/2012 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude an Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the Visa Facilitation Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine has been in force since 1 January 2008.

Article 12 of the Visa Facilitation Agreement establishes a Joint Committee tasked *inter alia* with monitoring the implementation of the Agreement and suggesting amendments and additions thereto. The Joint Committee, at its 6th meeting on 5 May 2011 in Brussels endorsed suggestions for amendments and additions to the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

At political level, at the 8th EU-Ukraine Ministerial Meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security on 9 June 2010, the Parties looked forward to constructive negotiations on possible amendments to the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

On that basis the Commission presented on 29 October 2010 a recommendation to the Council in order to authorise the Commission to open negotiations with Ukraine on an Agreement amending the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

Following the authorisation given by the Council on 11 April 2011, the negotiations with Ukraine on an Agreement amending the Visa Facilitation Agreement were opened in Brussels on 6 May 2011. Three further rounds of negotiations took place on 11 July 2011 in Kiev and on 9 November 2011 and 14 December 2011 in Brussels. The final text of the amending Agreement was initialled in February 2012 by the chief negotiators.

Member States have been regularly informed and consulted in the relevant Council Working Groups at all stages of the negotiations.

In accordance with a Council Decision, the Agreement was signed, subject to its conclusion.

It is now necessary to approve this Agreement on behalf of the European Union.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was carried out.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 77(2a), in conjunction with Article 218 (6)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: this proposed Decision hereby aims to conclude the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas. It amends the 2008 Agreement as follows:

(1) simplified requirements for documents to be presented regarding the purpose of the journey for the following categories of applicants:

- drivers conducting international cargo and passenger transportation services and journalists: have been reviewed.
- members of the technical crew accompanying journalists, participants in official exchange programmes organised by municipal entities other than twin cities, close relatives of EU citizens residing in the territory of the Member State of which they are nationals, persons accompanying persons visiting for medical reasons, representatives of civil society organisations undertaking trips for the purposes of educational training, seminars, conferences, members of the professions participating in international exhibitions, conferences, symposia, seminars or other similar events, representatives of religious communities, and participants in official EU cross-border cooperation programmes: have been introduced;

(2) clarification of the provisions on the period of validity of multiple-entry visas for the following categories of applicants:

- the categories listed in Article 5(1) of the Visa Facilitation Agreement as well as national and regional prosecutors and their deputies, spouses, children and parents visiting citizens of the European Union residing in the territory of the Member State of which they are nationals, and the technical crew accompanying journalists in a professional capacity:
- in principle, multiple-entry visas valid for five years shall be issued. Multiple-entry visas with a shorter period of validity shall only be issued where the expiry date of the travel document requires this or where the need or the intention to travel frequently or regularly is manifestly limited to a shorter period;
- the categories listed in Article 5(2) of the Visa Facilitation Agreement as well as participants in official exchange programmes organised by municipal entities other than twin cities, representatives of civil society organisations travelling regularly to Member States for the purposes of educational training, seminars, conferences, participants in official EU cross-border cooperation programmes, students and postgraduate students who regularly travel for the purposes of study or educational training, representatives of the religious communities, members of the professions participating in international exhibitions, conferences, symposia, seminars or other similar events held in the territory of the Member States, persons needing to visit regularly for medical reasons and necessary accompanying persons:
- in principle, multiple-entry visas valid for one year shall be issued. Multiple-entry visas with a shorter period of validity shall only be issued where the expiry date of the travel document requires this or where the need or the intention to travel frequently or regularly is manifestly limited to a shorter period;

(3) the possibility of charging a fee of EUR 70 in case of urgent applications:

- is abolished for cases, where the visa application and supporting documents are submitted by the visa applicant without justification only three days or less before his/her departure;
- is introduced for cases, where based on the distance between the applicant's place of residence and the place where the application has been submitted, the applicant has requested that a decision on the application be taken within three days of its submission and the consulate has accepted to take a decision within three days;

(4) a full waiving of the visa fee for the following additional categories of applicants:

close relatives of citizens of the European Union residing in the territory of the Member State of which they are nationals, participants in official exchange programmes organised by other municipal entities than twin cities, the technical crew accompanying journalists in a professional capacity, representatives of the religious communities, members of the professions participating in international exhibitions, conferences, symposia, seminars or other similar events, participants aged 25 years or less in seminars, conferences, sports, cultural or educational events, organised by non-profit organisations, representatives of civil society organisations undertaking trips for the purposes of educational training, seminars, conferences, participants in official EU cross-border cooperation programmes;

(5) the possibility for an external service provider, with whom a Member State cooperates in view of issuing a visa, to charge a service fee of up to EUR 30, while maintaining the possibility of all applicants to lodge their applications directly at a consulate;

(6) the requirement that appointments for lodging an application, where required, shall, as a rule, take place within a period of two weeks from the date when the appointment was requested;

(7) the exemption from the visa requirement for short stays for the citizens of Ukraine who are holders of biometric service passports.

It should be noted that a European Union declaration on the provision containing this exemption from the visa requirement is attached to the amending Agreement. The amending Agreement clarifies that this does not affect the applicability of provisions of existing bilateral Agreements or arrangements between individual Member States and Ukraine on the exemption of the holders of non-biometric service passports from the visa requirement for short stays.

Replying to a specific request formulated by Ukraine, a European Union Declaration is attached to the amending Agreement on:

- documents to be submitted when applying for short stay visas;

- facilitations for family members not covered by the legally binding provisions of the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

Territorial applications: the specific situations of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom are reflected in the preamble. The association of Switzerland and Liechtenstein to the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis is reflected in a Joint Declaration to the amending Agreement.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: this proposal has no implications for the EU budget.

EU/Ukraine Visa Facilitation Agreement: amendments and additions

2012/0138(NLE) - 05/07/2012 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude an Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the Visa Facilitation Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine has been in force since 1 January 2008.

Article 12 of the Visa Facilitation Agreement establishes a Joint Committee tasked *inter alia* with monitoring the implementation of the Agreement and suggesting amendments and additions thereto. The Joint Committee, at its 6th meeting on 5 May 2011 in Brussels endorsed suggestions for amendments and additions to the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

At political level, at the 8th EU-Ukraine Ministerial Meeting on Justice, Freedom and Security on 9 June 2010, the Parties looked forward to constructive negotiations on possible amendments to the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

On that basis the Commission presented on 29 October 2010 a recommendation to the Council in order to authorise the Commission to open negotiations with Ukraine on an Agreement amending the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

Following the authorisation given by the Council on 11 April 2011, the negotiations with Ukraine on an Agreement amending the Visa Facilitation Agreement were opened in Brussels on 6 May 2011. Three further rounds of negotiations took place on 11 July 2011 in Kiev and on 9 November 2011 and 14 December 2011 in Brussels. The final text of the amending Agreement was initialled in February 2012 by the chief negotiators.

Member States have been regularly informed and consulted in the relevant Council Working Groups at all stages of the negotiations.

The European Parliament should also approve the amending Agreement.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was carried out.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 77(2a), in conjunction with Article 218 (6)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: this proposed Decision hereby concludes the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas. It amends the 2008 Agreement as follows:

(1) simplified requirements for documents to be presented regarding the purpose of the journey for the following categories of applicants:

- drivers conducting international cargo and passenger transportation services and journalists: have been reviewed.
- members of the technical crew accompanying journalists, participants in official exchange programmes organised by municipal entities other than twin cities, close relatives of EU citizens residing in the territory of the Member State of which they are nationals, persons accompanying persons visiting for medical reasons, representatives of civil society organisations undertaking trips for the purposes of educational training, seminars, conferences, members of the professions participating in international exhibitions, conferences, symposia, seminars or other similar events, representatives of religious communities, and participants in official EU cross-border cooperation programmes: have been introduced;

(2) clarification of the provisions on the period of validity of multiple-entry visas for the following categories of applicants:

- the categories listed in Article 5(1) of the Visa Facilitation Agreement as well as national and regional prosecutors and their deputies, spouses, children and parents visiting citizens of the European Union residing in the territory of the Member State of which they are nationals, and the technical crew accompanying journalists in a professional capacity:
- in principle, multiple-entry visas valid for five years shall be issued. Multiple-entry visas with a shorter period of validity shall only be issued where the expiry date of the travel document requires this or where the need or the intention to travel frequently or regularly is manifestly limited to a shorter period;
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the categories listed in Article 5(2) of the Visa Facilitation Agreement as well as participants in official exchange programmes organised by municipal entities other than twin cities, representatives of civil society organisations travelling regularly to Member States for the purposes of educational training, seminars, conferences, participants in official EU cross-border cooperation programmes, students and postgraduate students who regularly travel for the purposes of study or educational training, representatives of the religious communities, members of the professions participating in international exhibitions, conferences, symposia, seminars or other similar events held in the territory of the Member States, persons needing to visit regularly for medical reasons and necessary accompanying persons:

- in principle, multiple-entry visas valid for one year shall be issued. Multiple-entry visas with a shorter period of validity shall only be issued where the expiry date of the travel document requires this or where the need or the intention to travel frequently or regularly is manifestly limited to a shorter period;

(3) the possibility of charging a fee of EUR 70 in case of urgent applications:

- is abolished for cases, where the visa application and supporting documents are submitted by the visa applicant without justification only three days or less before his/her departure;
- is introduced for cases, where based on the distance between the applicant's place of residence and the place where the application has been submitted, the applicant has requested that a decision on the application be taken within three days of its submission and the consulate has accepted to take a decision within three days;

(4) a full waiving of the visa fee for the following additional categories of applicants:

close relatives of citizens of the European Union residing in the territory of the Member State of which they are nationals, participants in official exchange programmes organised by other municipal entities than twin cities, the technical crew accompanying journalists in a professional capacity, representatives of the religious communities, members of the professions participating in international exhibitions, conferences, symposia, seminars or other similar events, participants aged 25 years or less in seminars, conferences, sports, cultural or educational events, organised by non-profit organisations, representatives of civil society organisations undertaking trips for the purposes of educational training, seminars, conferences, participants in official EU cross-border cooperation programmes;

(5) the possibility for an external service provider, with whom a Member State cooperates in view of issuing a visa, to charge a service fee of up to EUR 30, while maintaining the possibility of all applicants to lodge their applications directly at a consulate;

(6) the requirement that appointments for lodging an application, where required, shall, as a rule, take place within a period of two weeks from the date when the appointment was requested;

(7) the exemption from the visa requirement for short stays for the citizens of Ukraine who are holders of biometric service passports.

It should be noted that a European Union declaration on the provision containing this exemption from the visa requirement is attached to the amending Agreement. The amending Agreement clarifies that this does not affect the applicability of provisions of existing bilateral Agreements or arrangements between individual Member States and Ukraine on the exemption of the holders of non-biometric service passports from the visa requirement for short stays. Replying to a specific request formulated by Ukraine, a European Union Declaration is attached to the amending Agreement on:

- documents to be submitted when applying for short stay visas;

- facilitations for family members not covered by the legally binding provisions of the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

Territorial applications: the specific situations of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom are reflected in the preamble. The association of Switzerland and Liechtenstein to the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis is reflected in a Joint Declaration to the amending Agreement.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: this proposal has no implications for the EU budget.