Basic information

2016/0075(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Third countries whose nationals are subject to or exempt from a visa requirement: Georgia Amending Regulation Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 2000/0030(CNS) **Subject** 7.10.04 External borders crossing and controls, visas **Geographical area** Georgia	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	GABRIEL Mariya (PPE)	25/04/2016
	Shadow rapporteur MAMIKINS Andrejs (S&D) HALLA-AHO Jussi (ECR) GRIESBECK Nathalie (ALDE) VERGIAT Marie-Christine (GUE/NGL) VALERO Bodil (Verts/ALE) VON STORCH Beatrix (EFDD)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	MAMIKINS Andrejs (S&D)	24/05/2016

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Foreign Affairs	3477	2016-06-20
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	3465	2016-05-20
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	3473	2016-06-10

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Migration and Home Affairs	AVRAMOPOULOS Dimitris

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
09/03/2016	Legislative proposal published	COM(2016)0142	Summary
11/04/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
20/05/2016	Debate in Council		
10/06/2016	Debate in Council		
20/06/2016	Debate in Council		
05/09/2016	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
05/09/2016	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
09/09/2016	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0260/2016	Summary
02/02/2017	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T8-0016/2017	Summary
02/02/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
02/02/2017	Debate in Parliament		
27/02/2017	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
01/03/2017	Final act signed		
01/03/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		
08/03/2017	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2016/0075(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Amending Regulation Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 2000/0030(CNS)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 077-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/8/05996

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE584.100	16/06/2016	
Committee opinion	AFET	PE584.122	07/07/2016	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE587.427	15/07/2016	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0260/2016	09/09/2016	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0016/2017	02/02/2017	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	00064/2016/LEX	01/03/2017	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2016)0142	09/03/2016	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2017)156	14/03/2017	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2017/0372
OJ L 061 08.03.2017, p. 0007 Summary

Third countries whose nationals are subject to or exempt from a visa requirement: Georgia

2016/0075(COD) - 02/02/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 553 votes to 66, with 28 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (Georgia).

The proposal aims to amend Regulation No 539/2001 and to transfer Georgia to Annex II, which establishes the list of third countries whose nationals are exempt from the requirement to obtain visas in order to cross the external borders of the Member States.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading, following the ordinary legislative proposal, taking over the Commission proposal. It was however stipulated in a recital that the continuous fulfilment by Georgia of the criteria for its citizens to be exempted from the visa requirement when travelling to the territory of Member States, especially on the fight against organised crime, will be **duly monitored by the Commission**.

Third countries whose nationals are subject to or exempt from a visa requirement: Georgia

2016/0075(COD) - 01/03/2017 - Final act

PURPOSE: to amend Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) 2017/372 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (Georgia).

CONTENT: Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 lists the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of a visa when crossing the external borders of the Member States and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.

Georgia is currently included in Annex I to the Regulation, that is to say, among the countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas to enter the territory of the Member States of the Union.

However, it is considered that **Georgia has met all the benchmarks set out in the visa liberalisation action plan** presented to the Georgian Government, and therefore fulfils the relevant criteria for its citizens to be exempted from the visa requirement when travelling to the territory of Member States.

Accordingly, Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 is amended to **transfer Georgia from Annex I (list of countries subject to the visa requirement) to Annex II (list of countries exempt from visa requirement)**.

The visa waiver is limited to the holders of biometric passports issued by Georgia in line with standards of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

The Commission shall duly monitor the continuous fulfilment by Georgia of such criteria, especially on the fight against organised crime.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 28.3.2017.

Third countries whose nationals are subject to or exempt from a visa requirement: Georgia

2016/0075(COD) - 09/09/2016 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs adopted a report by Mariya GABRIEL (EPP, BG) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (Georgia).

Parliament recommended the European Parliament to adopt its position at first reading, **taking over the Commission proposal**.

The proposal aims to amend Regulation No 539/2001 and to transfer Georgia to Annex II, which establishes the list of third countries whose nationals are exempt from the requirement to obtain visas in order to cross the external borders of the Member States.

In the explanatory statement accompanying the report, it is stressed that Georgia is a strategic partner for the EU in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and in particular of the Eastern Partnership.

The Association Agreement between the EU and Georgia signed in 2014 has brought relations to a new level by enhancing the cooperation in wide range of fields. The Association Agreement constitutes an integral part of the EU policy of a sequenced engagement with Georgia and its commitment to a close relationship that encompasses political association and economic integration.

The Association Agreement intensified cooperation also by establishing a **free trade area**. As consequence trade with the EU has significantly increased and the EU became Georgia's most important commercial partner, representing 30% of its exports.

As regards the political and institutional situation, Georgia is **relatively stable democracy**. It may also become a key partner in the fight against organised crime, including trafficking in human beings, terrorism and corruption.

In terms of **mobility**, the potential migratory and security challenges have to be considered given the fact that the EU remains an attractive destination for migrants from Georgia. According to the latest statistics by Eurostat in 2014 the number of entry refusals at the external borders of EU 28 decreased by 61% compared to 2013, and by 56.5% in 2015.

Third countries whose nationals are subject to or exempt from a visa requirement: Georgia

2016/0075(COD) - 09/03/2016 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to amend Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 lists the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of a visa when crossing the external borders of the Member States and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement. It is applied by all Member States for the exception of Ireland, the United Kingdom, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Georgia is currently listed in Annex I of the Regulation, i.e. among those countries whose nationals are required to hold a visa when travelling to the territory of EU Member States.

The EU-Georgia Visa Liberalisation Dialogue was launched in June 2012. In February 2013, **the European Commission presented the Georgian Government with an action plan on visa liberalisation** (VLAP). The VLAP is structured around four 'blocks': document security, including biometrics (block I), migration and integrated border management, including asylum (block II), public order and security (block III), and external relations and fundamental rights (block IV).

Before the start of the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue, the EU and Georgia had concluded in parallel a Visa Facilitation Agreement and a Readmission Agreement, which entered into force on 1 March 2011. Their full and effective implementation has been an underlying condition for the launch and the continuation of the visa dialogue.

It is considered that **Georgia has met all the benchmarks set out in the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan** presented to the Georgian Government and therefore fulfils the relevant criteria for its citizens to be exempted from the visa requirement when travelling to the territory of EU Member States.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes to amend Regulation (EC) No 539/2001, **transferring Georgia from Annex I (list of visa-required countries) to Annex II (list of visa-free countries).**

It shall also be specified that the visa waiver will be limited to holders of biometric passports issued in line with standards of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).