



Council of the
European Union

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VISA 414

INFORMATION NOTE

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| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| To: | Council |
| Subject: | Mobility of artists <i>- Information from the Commission</i> |

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Commission on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under 'Any other business' for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 20-21 November 2017.

Mobility of Artists

There are specific problems encountered by EU artists seeking to perform and tour in the United States. High visa costs, delayed visa processing, and artist visa denials result in many tour cancellations. Research by an independent immigration research and advocacy organization (Tamizdat, supported by the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts) shows that the vast majority of the problems arise not from specific rules or flaws in the U.S. statutes themselves, but from inconsistent interpretations and enforcement of those same statutes by US officers.

But there could be remedies. This organisation (Tamizdat) has also developed a platform of administrative revisions that would improve the U.S. artist visa process, making it more efficient, equitable, affordable, and transparent, without jeopardizing U.S. security or labour interests.

The Commissioner would like to raise this issue with Ministers, underline the proposals to remedy it, announce that he is willing to present these suggestions to US government representatives, and invite Ministers to do the same, as well as to disseminate these suggestions throughout their cultural institutions, so that we all join in a collective effort to find workable solutions.
