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#### NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Visa Working Party/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway and Switzerland/Liechtenstein)
No. prev. doc.:	8568/22
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EC) No 810/2009 and (EU) 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1683/95, (EC) No 333/2002, (EC) No 693/2003 and (EC) No 694/2003 and Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement, as regards the digitalisation of the visa procedure - Presidency revised text of Article 1

With a view to the meeting of the Visa Working Party of 12 and 13 October 2022, delegations will find in the Annex the Presidency revised text of Article 1 of the abovementioned proposal (amendments to the Visa Code).

Changes compared to the Commission's proposal are marked in **bold underlined** for additions and ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions.

Proposal for a

**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**  
**amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EC) No 810/2009 and (EU) 2017/2226 of the**  
**European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1683/95, (EC) No**  
**333/2002, (EC) No 693/2003 and (EC) No 694/2003 and Convention implementing the**  
**Schengen Agreement, as regards the digitalisation of the visa procedure**

[...]

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*  
*Amendments to Regulation (EC) No 810/2009*

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 is amended as follows:

(1) in Article 1(2), the following point (c) is added:

“(c) the residence rights enjoyed in the host State by third-country nationals who are family members of UK nationals who themselves are beneficiaries of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community\* (‘EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement’).

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\* Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 29, 31.1.2020, p. 7).”;

(2) ~~in~~ Article 2 **is amended as follows**;

**(a)** the following points ~~10a and 10b~~ are inserted:

“10a. ‘application form’ means the uniform **application** form set out in Annex I, either available online via the EU application platform or on paper;

10b. ‘digital visa’ means visas issued in digital format as a record in VIS;”;

**(b) point (13) is replaced by the following:**

**“13. ‘electronically signed’ means the confirmation of agreement through the ticking of an appropriate box in the application form or the request for consent;”;**

(3) in Article 3(5), point (d) is replaced by the following:

“(d) family members of citizens of the Union referred to in Article 1(2), point (a), and family members of UK nationals who themselves are beneficiaries of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement ~~referred to in Article 1(2), point (e);~~”;

(4) in Article 5(1), point (b) is replaced by the following:

“(b) if the visit includes more than one destination, or if several separate visits are to be carried out within a period of two months, the Member State whose territory constitutes the main destination of the visit(s) in terms of the length of stay, counted in days; **or**”;

(5) in Article 8, the following paragraph ~~4a~~ is inserted:

“4a. Bilateral representation arrangements shall be displayed in the EU application platform referred to in Chapter Ia of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008.”;

(6) Article 9 is amended as follows:

(a) the following paragraphs ~~1a and 1b~~ are inserted:

“1a. ~~Applicants~~ **Applications** shall **be** lodged ~~an application~~ via the EU application platform, as referred to in Chapter Ia of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008.

1b. By derogation from paragraph 1a, the following categories of persons may lodge an application without using the EU application platform:

(a) third-country nationals in individual cases for humanitarian reasons;

(b) heads of State or government and members of a national government with accompanying spouses, and the members of their official delegation when they are invited by Member States’ governments or by international organisations for an official purpose, sovereigns and other senior members of a royal family, when they are invited by Member States’ governments or by international organisations for an official purpose;

(c) third-country nationals to whom visas are issued at the external border in accordance to Chapter VI.”;

(b) in paragraph 4 the following point ~~(d)~~ is added:

“(d) by another person, **with the proof of consent of the applicant, where** ~~when~~ it is lodged via the EU application platform.”;

(7) Article 10 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

“1. When lodging an application, applicants shall, where required in accordance with Article 13, appear in person to provide their fingerprints and facial image.

Applicants shall also appear in person for the verification of their travel document in accordance with Article 12.”;

(b) the following paragraphs ~~1a and 1b~~ are inserted:

“1a. **Without prejudice to the provision of paragraph 1, Member States may, in justified and individual cases, or in cases where there is a high incidence of fraudulent documents in a particular location, Member States may** require that the applicant presents a travel document and/or provides supporting documents, **or both**. ~~This shall be possible in exceptional cases and in cases where there is a high incidence of fraudulent documents in a particular location.~~

1b. Consulates shall, within local Schengen cooperation, assess the implementation of the conditions laid down in paragraph 1a, to take account of local circumstances.”;

(c) paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:

“3. When lodging the application, the applicant shall:

- (a) provide data referred to in Article 11;
- (b) provide proof of holding the travel document in accordance with Article 12;
- (c) allow his or her facial image to be taken live in accordance with Article 13 or, where the exemptions referred to in Article 13(7a) apply, present a photograph in accordance with the standards set out in Regulation (EC) No 1683/95;
- (d) allow the collection of his or her fingerprints in accordance with Article 13, where applicable;
- (e) pay the visa fee in accordance with Article 16;
- (f) provide proof of **possession of** the supporting documents in accordance with Article 14;
- (g) where applicable, provide proof of possession of adequate and valid travel medical insurance in accordance with Article 15.”;

(8) Article 11 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

“1. Application form shall be submitted via the EU application platform. In cases referred to in Article 9(1b), the applicants may submit a manually or electronically completed application form set out in Annex I.

~~The Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 51a in order to update the application form as set out in Annex I or submitted via the EU application platform.~~

The application form shall be signed. It may be signed electronically. Persons included in the applicant's travel document shall submit a separate application form. Minors shall submit an application form signed by a person exercising permanent or temporary parental authority or legal guardianship.”;

(b) paragraph **1a and** 1b ~~is~~**are** deleted;

(c) the following paragraph ~~4e~~ is inserted:

“**1c.** Each applicant shall submit a completed application form including a declaration of the authenticity, completeness, correctness and reliability of the data submitted and a declaration of the veracity and reliability of the statements made. Each applicant shall also state that he or she has understood the conditions for entry referred to in Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 and that he or she may be requested to provide the relevant supporting documents at each entry.

**If the application has been lodged via the EU application platform by another person, it has to be confirmed that the necessary consent of the applicant has been obtained.**”;

(9) Article 12 is replaced by the following:

*“Article 12  
Travel document*

1. The applicant shall provide proof of holding a valid travel document satisfying the following criteria:

- (a) its validity shall extend at least three months after the intended date of departure from the territory of the Member States or, in the case of several visits, after the last intended date of departure from the territory of the Member States. However, in a justified case of emergency, this obligation may be waived;
- (b) it shall have been issued within the previous 10 years.

2. **Without prejudice to Article 10(1a)** ~~t~~The applicant shall only be required to present the travel document in person in case of a first application with that travel document, or if the applicant needs to provide biometrics.

~~The first subparagraph shall not affect the application of Article 10(1a).~~

3. The travel documents shall be checked using the appropriate technology.
4. Where the application is submitted via the EU application platform, the consulate or the external service provider shall verify that the presented travel document, which is presented in person in accordance with paragraph 2, corresponds to the scanned copy **of the biographic data page of the travel document** uploaded by the applicant.

If the verification is done by the external service provider, the external service provider shall use the external service provider gateway referred to in Article 7e Regulation (EC) No 767/2008.

5. Where the quality of the scanned copy referred to in paragraph 4 is unsatisfactory or where there are doubts, notably regarding authenticity, the competent consulate or the external service provider shall take a new scan and upload it to the EU application platform..”;

(10) ~~in~~Article 13 **is amended as follows**:-

**(a) paragraph 6 is replaced by the following:**

**“6. The biometric identifiers shall be collected by qualified and duly authorised staff of the authorities competent in accordance with Article 4(1), (2) and (3). Under the supervision of the consulates, the biometric identifiers may also be collected by qualified and duly authorised staff of an external service provider as referred to in Article 43. The Member State(s) concerned shall, where there is any doubt, provide for the possibility of verifying at the consulate fingerprints which have been taken by the external service provider.”;**

**(b)** the following paragraph 7e is added:

“7c. Where the biometric identifiers are collected by an external service provider in accordance with Article 43, the external service provider gateway referred to in Article 7e Regulation (EC) No 767/2008 shall be used for this purpose.”;

(11) Article 14 is amended as follows:

(a) in paragraph 1, the introductory words are replaced by the following:

“When applying for a uniform visa, the applicant shall provide proof of:

**(a) proof of documents indicating the purpose of the journey;**

**(b) proof of documents in relation to accommodation, or proof of sufficient means to cover his accommodation;**

**(c) proof of documents indicating that the applicant possesses sufficient means of subsistence both for the duration of the intended stay and for the return to his country of origin or residence, or for the transit to a third country into which he is certain to be admitted, or that he is in a position to acquire such means lawfully, in accordance with Article 5(1)(c) and (3) of the Schengen Borders Code;**

**(d) information enabling an assessment of the applicant’s intention to leave the territory of the Member States before the expiry of the visa applied for.”;**

(b) in paragraph 2, the introductory words are replaced by the following:

“When applying for an airport transit visa, the applicant shall provide proof of:”;

(12) in Article 15(2), the second subparagraph is replaced by the following:

“In addition, such applicants shall declare, ~~as part of~~ **in** the application form, that they are aware of the need to be in possession of travel medical insurance for subsequent stays.”;

(13) ~~in Article 16(7), the first subparagraph is replaced by the following~~ **amended as follows:**

**a) in paragraph 7, the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:**

“For applications submitted via the EU application platform, the visa fee shall be charged, **as a rule,** in euro and shall not be refundable except in the cases referred to in Article 18(2) and Article 19(3). **In those cases, the visa fee may be returned to the applicant via the EU platform.**”<sup>22</sup>;

**In cases an electronic payment is not applicable, the visa fee may be collected by the consulates or the External Service Provider entrusted with this task.**

For application not submitted via the EU application platform, when charged in a currency other than the euro, the amount of the visa fee charged in that currency shall be determined and regularly reviewed in application of the euro foreign exchange reference rate set by the European Central Bank. The amount charged may be rounded up and it shall be ensured under local Schengen cooperation that similar fees are charged.”;

**b) paragraph 7a is added:**

**“7a. For applications submitted via the EU application platform, the payment tool referred to in Article 7d of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008 shall be used.**

**In cases where the electronic payment cannot be used, the visa fee may be collected by the consulates or the External Service Provider entrusted with this task.”;**

(14) in Article 18 the following paragraphs 3 and 4 are added:

- “3. For applications submitted via the EU application platform, following the notification by the EU application platform on the automated competence and admissibility pre-check pursuant to Article 7c(9) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008, the consulate or the central authorities of the Member State notified by the system shall verify whether they are competent to examine and decide on it.
4. ~~In cases~~**If, after the verification** referred to in paragraph 3, if the **notified consulates or central authorities of the** Member State finds that ~~it is~~ **they are** not competent, ~~it~~ **they** shall, without delay, notify the applicant ~~through~~ **using** the secure account service in the EU application platform, **and** indicating which Member State is competent.

The applicant may withdraw the application. If the application is withdrawn, ~~the~~ application data shall be deleted from temporary storage, pursuant to Article 7c of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008.”;

(15) ~~In Article 19 is amended as follows~~**the following paragraph is inserted:**

~~(a) the following paragraph 1a is inserted:~~

- “1a. For applications submitted via the EU application platform, after the notification by the EU application platform, on the automated admissibility pre-check pursuant to Article 7c(9) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008, indicating that the application is ~~is~~ **appears to be** admissible, the consulate or the central authorities of the Member State notified by the system shall conduct the checks in paragraph 1 without delay.”;

~~(b) the following paragraph 2b is inserted:~~

~~“2b. For applications submitted via the EU application platform, where the competent consulate or the central authorities of the competent Member State find that the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 have been fulfilled, the application shall be admissible and the competent consulate or the central authorities of the competent Member State shall accept the application.”;~~

~~(c) the following paragraph 4a is added:~~

~~“4a. For applications submitted via the EU application platform, the competent consulate or the central authorities of the competent Member State shall be able to accept an application which has not been lodged within the period referred to in Article 9(1), notably in justified cases of urgency referred to in Article 9(3).”;~~



(16) Article 20 is deleted;

(17) Article 21 is amended as follows:

(a) in paragraph 3, point (a) is replaced by the following

“(a) that the travel document provided ~~or presented~~ is not false, counterfeit or forged;”;

(b) in paragraph 6, point (a) is replaced by the following

“(a) that the travel document provided ~~or presented~~ is not false, counterfeit or forged;”;

(18) Article 24 is amended as follows:

(a) in paragraph 1, third subparagraph, the reference to “point (a) of Article 12” is replaced by reference to “Article 12(1), point (a)”;

(b) in paragraph 2 first subparagraph, the introductory words are replaced by the following:

“Provided that the applicant fulfils the entry conditions set out in Article 6(1), points (a), (c), (d) and (e), of Regulation (EU) 2016/399, multiple-entry visas with a long validity shall be issued for the following validity periods:”;

(c) the following paragraph ~~2aa~~ is inserted:

“2aa. The validity of the multiple-entry visas ~~with a long validity periods~~ shall not be restricted by the validity of the travel document.

**For Member States not issuing visas in digital format, the validity of the visa shall be restricted by the validity of the travel document.**”;

(19) in Article 25, the following paragraph ~~6~~ is added:

“6. Issuing a visa in digital format shall not affect the competence of Member States in relation to the recognition of travel documents. This includes those travel documents that are not recognised by one or more, but not all Member States.”;

(20) the following Article ~~26a~~ is inserted:

*“Article 26a  
Digital visas*

Visas shall be issued in digital format as a record in VIS, ~~including~~. **Digital visas shall have a unique visa number.**”;

**(20a) the title of Article 27 is replaced by the following:**

**“Filling of the visa stickers by Member States not issuing visas in digital format”;**

**(20b) the title of Article 28 is replaced by the following:**

**“Invalidation of a completed visa stickers by Member States not issuing visas in digital format”;**

**(20c) the title of Article 29 is replaced by the following:**

**“Affixing a visa stickers by Member States not issuing visas in digital format”;**

(21) Article 32 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

“2. ~~For applications submitted via the EU application platform, information regarding decisions on refusal and the reasons on which it is based shall be notified to the applicant by secure electronic means in accordance with Article 7f(1) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008. The notification will contain the same information as set out in Annex VI, in the language of the Member State that has taken the final decision on the application and another official language of the Union.~~

~~Member States may add additional documents to the standard notification, justifying the refusal.~~

~~For applications not submitted via the EU application platform in cases referred to in Article 9(1b), a decision on refusal and the reasons on which it is based shall be notified to the applicant by means of the standard form set out in Annex VI in the language of the Member State that has taken the final decision on the application and another official language of the Union.~~

**For applications submitted via the EU application platform, as soon as the refusal decision is available, the applicant shall be notified by electronic means in accordance with Article 7f(1) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008.**

**A decision on refusal and the reasons on which it is based, as sets out in Annex VI, shall be made available to the applicant in the secure account. The refusal decision shall be in the language of the Member State that has taken the final decision on the application and another official language of the Union. Member States may add additional documents that justify the refusal decision.**

**The period of the appeal shall be initiated once the visa applicant consults the decision in the secure account in the EU platform.**

~~The Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 51a in order to amend the refusal form, as set out in Annex VI or as a notification as referred to in Chapter Ia of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008.”;~~

- (b) in paragraph 3, the third sentence is replaced by the following:

“Member States shall provide applicants with information regarding the procedure to be followed in the event of an appeal, as specified ~~as specified in Annex VI or in the~~ refusal notification sent via the EU application platform.”;

- (22) the following Article ~~32a~~ is inserted:

*“Article 32a*

*Confirmation of a valid visa in a new travel document*

1. Visa holders whose travel document has been lost, stolen or has expired **or invalidated** and whose visa is still valid ~~may~~**shall** apply for the confirmation of the visa linked to a new travel document, **if they wish continue using the visa. The confirmation of the visa can be done, in principle, at the authority which issued the visa or under the terms communicated by the Member State.**
2. The visa holders referred to in paragraph 1 shall apply for confirmation of the visa in a new travel document via the EU application platform referred to in Chapter Ia of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008. They shall provide the following personal data:
  - (a) name, date ~~a~~ **and place** of birth, **sex**, nationality;
  - (b) number of the visa;
  - (c) data of the lost, stolen or expired travel document;
  - (d) data of **the** new travel document;
  - (e) scan of **the** biometric ~~data~~ **graphic data** page;
  - (f) proof of loss or theft of the travel document ~~or expiry~~;
  - (g) if relevant, identity changes since previous visa issuance.**
3. The visa holder shall pay the visa confirmation fee of EUR ~~30~~**40**.
4. The visa holder shall be required to appear in person for the presentation of the new travel document **for the purpose of verification of the identity of the holder of the travel document,** ~~in order to verify that this~~ **the** travel document corresponds to the scanned copy uploaded via the EU application platform, and that ~~the bearer~~ **holder** of the travel document corresponds to the person for whom a visa was issued.

5. The new travel document shall fulfil **the** conditions laid down in Article 12.
6. Where the competent consulate or the central authorities of the competent Member State determines that the valid visa can be confirmed in a new travel document, it shall enter the data in the application file in VIS pursuant to **in accordance with** Article 12a of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008.
7. The fact that a **decision on the confirmation of the** visa is confirmed in a new travel document shall be notified to the applicant by ~~secure~~ electronic means in accordance with Article 7f of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008.

**The decision whether a visa is confirmed in a new travel document shall be made available to the applicant in the secure account.**

8. Where the competent consulate or the central authorities of the competent Member State cannot determine whether the valid visa can be confirmed in a new travel document, notably because of doubts regarding the identity of the visa holder, it shall:
  - (a) refuse the confirmation;
  - (b) revoke the valid visa, in accordance with Article 34.
9. The procedure regarding the confirmation of a valid visa in a new travel document shall not preclude the visa holder ~~to submit~~ **from submitting** a new visa application.”;

(23) Article 33 is amended as follows:

- (a) **paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:**

**“2. The period of validity and/or the duration of stay of an issued visamay be extended if the visa holder provides proof of serious personalreasons justifying the extension of the period of validity or the durationof stay. A fee of EUR 40 shall be charged for such an extension.”;**

- (aa) paragraph 6 is replaced by the following:

“6. Visa holders may apply for extension online via the EU application platform. They shall provide **by uploading in the platform the following:**

- (a) personal data,
- (b) **the** number of **the** visa and **the** travel document,
- (c) ~~upload~~ **a copies of the** -supporting documents proving force majeure, humanitarian reasons and/or serious personal reasons ~~preventing which~~ **prevent** them from leaving the territory of the Member States **before the expiry of the period of validity or of the duration of stay authorised by the visa.**

~~and~~ **Those visa holders shall** pay the fee of EUR ~~30~~**40** only in case of serious personal reasons referred to in paragraph 2.”;

(b) the following paragraph~~8~~ is added:

“8. ~~When~~ **The decision on the extension of the visa** a visa is extended pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 7 of this Article **requested** via the EU application platform, the extension shall be notified to the applicant by secure electronic means in accordance with Article 7f of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008.

**The decision whether a visa is extended shall be made available to the applicant in the secure account.**”;

(24) ~~In~~ Article 34 is amended as follows:

(a) ~~—~~ paragraphs 5 and 6 are replaced by the following:

“5. If a visa not issued in digital format is annulled or revoked, a stamp stating ‘ANNULLED’ or ‘REVOKED’ shall be affixed to it and the optically variable feature of the visa sticker, the security feature ‘latent image effect’ as well as the term ‘visa’ shall be invalidated by being crossed out.

6. **For applications submitted via the EU application platform, a** decision on annulment or revocation of a visa and the reasons on which it is based shall be issued in digital format by entering the data into the VIS, pursuant to **in accordance with** Article 13~~2~~ of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008~~;~~

**As soon as the decision on the annulment or revocation is available, the applicant shall be notified by electronic means in accordance with Article 7f(1) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008.**

**A decision on annulment or revocation and the reasons on which it is based, as sets out in Annex VI, shall be made available to the applicant in the secure account.**

**For applications not submitted via the EU application platform, a decision on annulment or revocation of a visa and the reasons on which it is based shall be notified to the applicant by means of the standard form set out in Annex VI,** and notified to the applicant by secure electronic means in accordance with Article 7f of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008 or by means of the standard form set out in Annex VI for applications not submitted via the EU application platform. The notification shall contain the information set out in Annex VI.”;

(b) ~~—~~ in paragraph 7, the third sentence is replaced by the following:

~~“Member States shall provide applicants with information regarding the procedure to be followed in the event of an appeal, as set out in Annex VI or in the notification sent via the EU application platform”;~~

(25) Article 37 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

“2. For Member States which do not issue visas in digital format, the storage and handling of visa stickers shall be subject to adequate security measures to avoid fraud or loss. Each consulate shall keep an account of its stock of visa stickers and register how each visa sticker has been used. Any significant loss of blank visa stickers shall be reported to the Commission.”;

(b) in paragraph 3, the first sentence is replaced by the following:

**“As a general rule, c**Consulates or central authorities shall keep archives of applications in electronic format.”;

(26) Article 38 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1a is replaced by the following:

“Member States shall ensure that the entire visa procedure in consulates, including the lodging and handling of applications, **the printing of visa stickers, if applicable,** and the practical cooperation with external service providers, is monitored by expatriate staff to ensure the integrity of all stages of the procedure.”;

(b) the following paragraph ~~3e~~ is inserted:

“3c. **Based on training materials developed by eu-LISA or the Commission,** Member States’ central authorities shall provide appropriate training to **each of** their staff **and external service providers** regarding the EU application platform.”;

**(26a) In Article 40, paragraph 2 point (a) is replaced by the following:**

**“(a) equip their consulates and authorities responsible for issuing visas at the borders with the requisite material for the collection of biometric identifiers;”;**

(27) Article 42 is deleted.

(28) Article 43 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:

“4. The examination of applications, interviews, ~~(where appropriate), and~~ the decision on applications **and, if applicable, the printing and affixing of visa stickers,** shall be carried out only by the consulate **or the central authorities**.”;

- (b) in paragraph 5, the following second subparagraph is added:

“By way of derogation, **only duly authorised staff of** external service providers may have access to the EU application platform via the external service provider gateway referred to in Article 7e of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008, **and only** to:

- (a) verify the data uploaded by the applicant;
- (b) upload biometric identifiers;
- (c) upload **copies of** the supporting documents;
- (d) use the appointment tool to indicate available slots.”;

- (c) paragraph 6 is amended as follows:

- (1) point (c) is replaced by the following:

“(c) collecting data **and, if applicable, applications** (including collection of biometric identifiers and, in exceptional cases, supporting documents and documents needed for identity checks), transmitting them to the consulate or the central authorities where applicable, and uploading them to the EU application platform;”;

- (2) the following point (ca) is inserted:

“(ca) **verifying** the travel document against the copy uploaded by the applicant;”;

- (29) ~~in~~ Article 44 **is amended as follows**;

- (a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:**

**“1. In the case of cooperation among Member States and cooperation with an external service provider, the Member State(s) concerned shall ensure that data are fully encrypted, whether transferred electronically or physically on an electronic storage medium.”;**

- (b)** the following paragraph ~~4a~~ is inserted :

“1a. Paragraph 1 shall not apply to the access that external service providers may have to the EU application platform via the external service provider gateway referred to in Article 7e of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008.”;

(30) ~~in Article 47~~ **is amended as follows:**

**(a) point (e) of paragraph 1 is deleted;**

**(b)** the following paragraph 3 is added:

“3. The EU application platform shall provide the general public with all relevant information in relation to the application for a visa via the EU application platform, in particular the information referred to in Article 7a of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008.”;

~~(31) in Article 51a(2), (3) and (6) the reference to “Article 16(9)” is replaced by reference to “Article 11(1), Article 16(9) and Article 32(2)”;~~

~~(32) in Article 53(1), point (f) is replaced by the following:~~

~~“(f) for Member States which do not issue visas in digital format, the additional national entries in the ‘comments’ section of the visa sticker, as referred to in Article 27(2);”;~~

(33) Annex III is deleted.

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