



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**VISA 293
COMIX 792**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : Council Secretariat
to Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. prev. doc.: 14674/05 VISA 288 COMIX 776

Subject : Draft Council Conclusions on the consular roll out for the Visa Information System (VIS)

The Commission submitted the initial proposal of draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Visa Information System (VIS) and the exchange of data between Member States on short-visas on 28 December 2004 (5093/05 VISA 1 CODEC 77 COMIX 5).

The Visa Working Party has on several occasions discussed this proposal and has started with the third reading. The Visa Working Party is waiting for the report from the European Parliament with which it has already established initial contacts.

The purpose of these draft Council Conclusions is to confirm the basic timetable and broad principles for the global collection of biometrics for the VIS which constitute basic elements which are essential for better planning but leave enough flexibility for proper implementation. They have been examined by the Visa Working Party and by the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA).

The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to confirm the agreement reached on the draft Council Conclusions as set out in the Annex with a view to submitting them to the Council for adoption as an "A" item.

**Draft Council Conclusions
on the consular roll out for the Visa Information System (VIS)**

RECALLING THAT

- The Visa Information System was established by virtue of the Council Decision 2004/512/EC of 8 June 2004¹.
- The Commission submitted a proposal to the European Parliament and the Council for a Regulation concerning the Visa Information System (VIS) and the exchange of data between Member States on short-stay visas².
- The Council in its Conclusions of 17 February 2005 set out the timetable for the development of the Central Part of the VIS and the efforts required by the Member States in the implementation phase³.
- The Council in its Declaration of 13 July 2005 stated that the roll out of biometrics to regions / countries of high risk would be prioritized⁴.

¹ OJ L 213, 15.6.2004, p.5.

² 5093/05 VISA 1 CODEC 77 COMIX 5 (COM (2004) 835 final)

³ 6492/05 VISA 44 COMIX 127

⁴ 11158/1/05 JAI 255 ECOFIN 244 TRANS 147 RELEX 374 ECO 85 PESC 652 COTER 40
COSDP 491 PROCIV 100 ENER 119 ATO 74 REV 1

THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THAT

- Without prejudice to the adoption of the proposal for the Visa Information System, Member States who will be implementing the VIS Regulation should plan for the collection of biometric data for the VIS, at consular posts, on a co-ordinated and coherent regional basis, that reflects the problems of illegal migration and threats to the internal security of the Member States and the feasibility of collecting biometric data from all locations.
- Those Member States should endeavour to be in a position to collect all the biometric data required for the VIS within 24 months of the commencement of the roll out.
- Those Member States should endeavour to be in a position to commence the collection of biometric data for the VIS in early 2007, which should begin with consular posts in North Africa and the Near East regions.
- To facilitate the development of a collaborative approach and the completion of the roll out within the time table, every effort should be made to resolve outstanding issues, in particular, the methods of collection of biometric data.
- Those Member States should also plan to process biometric data at border crossing points in a co-ordinated and coherent manner that complements the collection of the data at consular posts.
