



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 4 January 2023
(OR. en)**

15876/22

COCON 61

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 15876/22

Subject: Outcome of Proceedings of the meeting of Working Party on Consular
Affairs (COCON) on 12 December 2022

Delegations will find attached the document in subject.

1. Council Directive (EU) 2015/637 of 20 April 2015- implementation report

The Presidency gave an overview of the state of play of the discussions on further facilitating the exercise of EU citizens' fundamental right to consular protection in third countries. Following the report from the Commission on the implementation and application of Council Directive (EU) 2015/637¹, the COCON Working Party held an exchange of views at its meetings on 13 September, 13 October and 8 November. Concluding these discussions, the Presidency considers there is scope to review the Directive, in particular based on the experiences from consular crises in the past years.

Several delegations agreed with the findings in the Commission's implementation report that there is a need to clarify in the Directive the possibility of assisting Member States to recover the cost of consular assistance from represented as well as unrepresented EU citizens directly, as alternative to Government-to-Government recovery.

¹ REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the implementation and application of Council Directive (EU) 2015/637 of 20 April 2015 on the coordination and cooperation measures to facilitate consular protection for unrepresented citizens of the Union in third countries and repealing Decision 5/553/EC, COM (2022) 437