Council of the European Union

Brussels, 21 January 2020
(OR. en)

5223/20

Interinstitutional File: 2019/0182(NLE)

VISA 6
COEST 7

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Belarus on the facilitation of the issuance of visas – Request for the consent of the European Parliament

1. On 30 August 2019, the Commission submitted a proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Belarus on the facilitation of the issuance of visas[1] and a proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the same agreement[2], together with a draft text of the said agreement in the annex to that proposal[3].

2. The decision on the signing of the Agreement[4] was adopted by the Council on 14 October 2019. The Agreement was signed on 8 January 2020, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

3. Given that the conclusion of the agreement should only take place after the final assessment, by the Commission in consultation with the Member States, of Belarus' system of issuance of biometric diplomatic passports and their technical specifications, it was deemed appropriate to wait for that assessment before forwarding the draft Decision on the conclusion to EP for consent.

[1] 11857/19 VISA 171 COEST 181.
[2] 11858/19 VISA 172 COEST 182.
[3] 11858/19 VISA 172 COEST 182 ADD 1.
[4] Council Decision (EU) 2019/1915 of 14 October 2019 (OJ L 297 of 18.11.2019).

4. On 21 January 2020 the Commission presented the abovementioned assessment[5] to the Visa Working Party and it was well received by delegations.

5. With a view to preparing for the conclusion of the Agreement, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council, as an "A" item of the agenda of one of its forthcoming sessions, decides to forward the draft decision on conclusion as contained in 12362/19 VISA 190 COEST 209, as well as the text of the Agreement (12363/19 VISA 191 COEST 210) to the European Parliament for its consent.

---

[5] 5302/20.