Council of the European Union

Brussels, 15 May 2020
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VISA 49
COEST 78

'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
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 – Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption

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[5] was signed on 8 January 2020, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

3. In accordance with Article 218(6)(a)(v) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Council shall adopt the Decision concluding the Agreement after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament.

[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).
[5] 12363/19 VISA 191 COEST 210.

4. On 27 January 2020, the Council decided to forward the draft Decision on the conclusion as well as the text of the Agreement to the European Parliament for its consent.

5. On 13 May 2020, the European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement[6].

6. A revised version of the draft Council decision on the conclusion (12362/2/19 REV 2) had to be issued so as to reflect the consequences of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union.

7. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited:

   – to confirm its agreement on the text of the draft Council Decision on the conclusion, as set out in document 12362/2/19 REV 2 VISA 190 COEST 209, and

   – to decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision 2020/430, that the Council uses the written procedure for its adoption.

   The European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU.

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[6] P9_TA-PROV(2020)0062