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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code) (first reading) - Adoption of the legislative act - Statement

Statement by Italy

In a spirit of compromise, Italy accepts the text of the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code), presented by the Presidency (6113/19). It nevertheless wishes to draw attention to a specific issue which the Italian delegation raised on a number of occasions during the negotiations: reducing the maximum period within which a visa application must be decided on from 60 to 45 days (Article 23(2)). Italy regrets that, despite the efforts made during the negotiations, the final compromise text differs from the Council mandate. There is a risk that the new provision will not be compatible with the structure and workload of the Italian consular network, particularly in exceptional cases where further scrutiny of the applications is needed.