



THE SENATE
OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
9TH TERM

615th

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

Delivered on the 26th session held on 22nd October 2014

on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Union Code on Visas (Visa Code) (recast) (Senate Press no. N 131/09)

on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a touring visa and amending the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement and Regulations (EC) No 562/2006 and (EC) No 767/2008 (Senate Press no. N 132/09)

The Senate

I.

1. Generally welcomes

discussion on the common visa policy issues, especially on the proposed measures which facilitate entry and stay of legitimate passengers, lead to economic growth, make EU more attractive for tourism and simplify regular travelling for business persons;

2. Stresses, however,

that it is necessary to ensure a balance between economic and security implications of the proposed amendments;

II.

1. Appreciates

the overall specification of procedural rules, in particular the abolition of mandatory lodging of an application in person, the enlargement of categories of applicants who are mandatorily exempt from the visa fee, the issuance of multiple-entry visas with a longer validity, the reduction in the number of supporting documents in case of repeated application or the shortening of the response time in the prior consultation procedure; however, it also considers appropriate to negotiate the same conditions for EU citizens with relevant countries;

2. Believes

that it would be appropriate to leave the deadline for a final decision on a visa application in its current form (i.e. 15 days) because of security and timing concerns (regarding for example security checks);

3. Considers

the proposals for abolition of the requirements on travel medical insurance and for issuance of visas at the external borders under a temporary scheme to be problematic, as there is not enough time to carry out thorough background checks when issuing visas at the border and, in addition, the immigration police do not have sufficient capacity to issue visas upon arrival and will thus not be able to properly examine the applications;

4. Disagrees further

with the concept of mandatory representation of Member States in terms of collecting/processing of visa applications, as it is not possible to verify documents produced by the representing State;

5. Points out

that the proposal to introduce a new type of visa (touring visa) cannot be accepted without putting in place a control mechanism monitoring the actual length of stay of the visa holder in one Member State, having also in mind the absence of internal borders (and thus a high probability of abuse of this type of visa for *de facto* long-term stay in the Schengen area);

III.

1. Requests

the Government to inform the Senate about the way this position was taken into account and about the further proceeding of negotiations;

2. Authorises

the President of the Senate to forward this Resolution to the European Commission.

Milan Štěch
sign manual
President of the Senate

Vladimír Plaček
sign manual
Senate Verifier