



**LIBE\_OJ(2018)0709**

# **DRAFT AGENDA**

**Hearing**

**Tuesday 10 July 2018, 15.30 – 18.30**

**Brussels**

**Room: PHS 1A002**

## **VISA CODE AND HUMANITARIAN VISAS**

## BACKGROUND NOTE

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code) contains the conditions and procedures for the issuing of Schengen short-stay visas and airport transit. As such it is one of the core elements of the EU's common visa policy. Other elements of this visa policy are the Regulation 539/01 containing the lists of countries whose citizens require a visa to enter the Schengen area and those exempt from the visa obligation, the Visa Information System, the provisions on the uniform visa and a range of visa facilitation agreements with third countries.

The Visa Code has not been revised since its entry into force in 2010. Already, in April 2014, the Commission adopted a first proposal for a recast of the Visa Code. Intense work followed and trilogue negotiations started in May 2016. Negotiations did, however, not progress given the divergent positions of the institutions.

The LIBE Committee in its position on the Visa Code proposal voted a series of amendments on humanitarian visas concerning the creation of a “European Humanitarian Visa” and on the strengthening the existing provisions in this regard. During those negotiations both Commission and Council opposed the inclusion of provisions on humanitarian visas in the Visa Code while insisting on linking the Visa Code to the degree of cooperation of a third country on readmission with the EU. The Council refused to continue negotiations if these amendments were not withdrawn. In September 2017, after several months of deadlock in the negotiations, Parliament’s negotiating team withdrew the amendments in relation to the creation of a European Humanitarian Visas. Instead, it was decided to proceed with the drafting of a legislative own-initiative report under Rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure, to call upon the Commission to present a separate legislative act on Humanitarian Visas. However, the blockage in the Council remained and the Visa Code negotiations stalled.

The Commission announced the withdrawal of its recast proposal in the Commission Work programme for 2018<sup>1</sup>. The Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code). The current proposal focuses on streamlining and improving operational aspects of the visa procedure, trying to take account of the results of negotiations on the Visa Code recast proposal. Also new elements have been added, such as the increase on the visa fees, clearer rules on the issuing of multiple entry visas with a long period of validity and the so-called leverage role that visa policy can exert in the EU's readmission policy. For the Commission this proposal to reform the visa code should be seen in the context of a series of proposed revisions in the fields of migration, visa, security and border control, including a revision of the Visa Information System (VIS).

With this hearing the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs seeks the input of stakeholders and experts for its further works.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2017) 650 final, 24.10.2017, Annex IV.

## Background documents:

### I. Visa Code

[Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation \(EC\) 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas \(Visa Code\) - COM\(2018\) 252 final/ 2018/0061 \(COD\)](#)

[Annexes to the proposal for a regulation](#) - ANNEXES 1 to 4. COM(2018) 252 final

[Commission Staff Working Document: Impact Assessment](#) - SWD(2018) 77 final

Commission Staff Working Document: [Executive Summary of the Impact Assessment](#) - SWD(2018) 78 final

[Factsheet "A stronger, more efficient and secure EU visa policy"](#)

[Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – Adapting the common visa policy to new challenges](#)- COM(2018) 251 final

[EP Impact Assessment of Commission documents SWD\(2018\) 77 and SWD\(2018\) 78 on the proposal for a regulation amending Regulation \(EC\) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas \(Visa Code\) \(COM\(2018\) 252\)](#)- EPRS, Ex-ante Impact Assessment Unit

### II. Humanitarian Visas

[Working document on humanitarian visas](#)- Rapporteur: Juan Fernando López Aguilar

EPRS Briefing [`Towards an EU humanitarian visa scheme?`](#)

Policy department study- [`Humanitarian Visas: Option or Obligation?`](#)

## Order of business

### *Introduction*

15.30 - 15.35 **Welcoming and opening remarks** by **Claude MORAES**, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament

### *SESSION I - The proposal for the new Visa Code*

*15h35-17h15*

15.35 - 15.45 Introduction by the rapporteur, **Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR**

15.45 - 15.55 **Mr Karl-August LUX**, chair of the Visa working party, Austrian Presidency: State of play of the works in Council

15.55 - 16.05 **Ms Yolanda GALLEGO-CASILDA GRAU**, Head of Unit B2- Visa Policy and Document security of the European Commission.

16.05 - 16.15 **Ms Marta MACHADO**, Public Affairs Manager, HOTREC (Hotels, Restaurants & Cafés in Europe)/ NET (Network for the European Private Sector in Tourism)

16.15 - 16.25 **Mr Chris DIX**, the Head of Business development VFS Global

16.25 - 16:35 **Mr Tim SPRINGETT**, European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA)

16.35 - 16.45 **Prof. Marcello DI FILIPPO**, Full Professor of International Law - University of Pisa

16.45 - 17.10 Debate and Q&A

17.10 - 17.15 Conclusions by the rapporteur **Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR**

**SESSION II - Humanitarian visas**

**17h15-18h30**

- 17.15 - 17.25 Introduction by the rapporteur, **Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR**  
- Presentation of the draft legislative own-initiative report on humanitarian visas
- 17.25 - 17.45 European Added Value Assessment on humanitarian visas  
**Dr Wouter VAN BALLEGOOIJ**, European Added Value Unit, DG EPRS
- Humanitarian visas-legal aspects:  
**Dr Violeta MORENO-LAX**, Queen Mary University London
- Humanitarian visas-economic aspects:  
**Dr Meena FERNANDES**, Milieu
- 17.45 - 17.55 **Mr Michel DEJAEGHER**, former French Consul General and former Head of the French Central Visa Department, currently independent consultant (MD Visa Consulting)
- 17.55 – 18.05 **Mr Jan DE VOLDER**, Community of Sant'Egidio
- 18.05 - 18.25 Q&A
- 18.25 - 18.30 Conclusions by the rapporteur, **Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR**

## PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DEBATE

- *During the discussion, so as to make it possible for the highest number of parliamentarians to intervene, speaking time of speakers will be limited to **ten minutes** and speaking time of other participants to **two minutes** per contribution or question.*
- *Speakers wishing to supplement their speeches may do so in writing by submitting a document (preferably in English or French) in advance to the secretariat (email: [libe-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:libe-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu)). These documents will be circulated during the meeting.*
- *Meeting documents will be progressively added to the Events section of the LIBE Committee pages: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/events-hearings.html>*

### **THE MEETING IS BROADCASTED LIVE AND RECORDED**

*LIBE Committee pages:*

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=LIBE>

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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