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Committee on Foreign Affairs

2007/0071(CNS)

21.9.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on readmission (COM(2007)0197 – C6-0188/2007 – 2007/0071(CNS))

Draftswoman: Inese Vaidere

PA_Legapp

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Committee on Foreign Affairs welcomes the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on readmission, which is a step towards fulfilment of priorities set out in the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan, adopted jointly by Ukraine and the EU on 21 February 2005.

The Agreement will enable both partners to strengthen their cooperation on migration management and on the fight against illegal immigration, creating legally binding rules in a number of areas which require serious efforts on both the Ukrainian and the EU side.

In view of the wide ranging implications of the migration and border management capacities of Ukraine, which are not yet fully equipped to meet the commitments undertaken, the Committee on Foreign Affairs encourages the Ukraine authorities to carry out all the necessary actions needed to comply with the relevant obligations during the two-year transitional period foreseen for the entry into force of the provisions concerning readmission of third country nationals and stateless persons. Emphasis should be placed on improvements in border controls, migration management as well as on compliance with international rights and obligations related to human rights and the protection of asylum seekers and refugees. It would be highly appreciated if the Ukraine authorities were to consider the possibility of reducing the transitional period.

The Commission is encouraged to support the Ukrainian authorities' efforts to improve migration management capacities with all available means and measures.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the EU and its Member States to come forward with every possible expert and technical assistance in order to ensure that Ukraine meets obligations arising from the agreement. The Commission is also invited to provide its expertise in connection with the Ukraine's negotiations on readmission Agreements with third countries.

Since both the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on readmission and the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of issuance of short-stay visas have been negotiated in one package, the Committee on Foreign Affairs strongly recommends that the Ukraine extend equal entry requirements to all EU Member States, including Bulgaria and Rumania, before the ratification process is concluded.

Finally, the Committee on Foreign Affairs would appreciate the Commission's informing the European Parliament of the implementation of the Agreement.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to propose approval of the Commission proposal.

PROCEDURE

Title	Agreement between the EC and Ukraine on readmission
References	COM(2007)0197 - C6-0188/2007 - 2007/0071(CNS)
Committee responsible	LIBE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	AFET 21.6.2007
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Inese Vaidere 5.6.2007
Discussed in committee	12.9.2007
Date adopted	12.9.2007
Result of final vote	+: 36 -: 1 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Christopher Beazley, Monika Beňová, Cristian Silviu Buşoi, Véronique De Keyser, Alfred Gomolka, Klaus Hänsch, Anna Ibrisagic, Jelko Kacin, Ioannis Kasoulides, Helmut Kuhne, Vytautas Landsbergis, Francisco José Millán Mon, Raimon Obiols i Germà, Vural Öger, Justas Vincas Paleckis, Ioan Mircea Paşcu, Alojz Peterle, João de Deus Pinheiro, Hubert Pirker, Samuli Pohjamo, Michel Rocard, Libor Rouček, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, György Schöpflin, István Szent-Iványi, Antonio Tajani, Charles Tannock, Inese Vaidere, Geoffrey Van Orden, Josef Zieleniec
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Milan Horáček, Gisela Kallenbach, Tunne Kelam, Jaromír Kohlíček, Doris Pack, Aloyzas Sakalas, Adrian Severin, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi