EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004 *2009*

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2004/0063(COD)

22.2.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the proposal for a recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council to facilitate the issue by the Member States of uniform short-stay visas for researchers from third countries travelling within the European Community for the purpose of carrying out scientific research
(COM(2004)0178 – C6-0013/2004 – 2004/0063(COD))

Draftsman: Nikolaos Vakalis

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

I. Summary of the proposal

The present proposal for a Council recommendation forms part of a threefold legal instrument (one directive and two recommendations) aiming at facilitating the admission of third-country researchers in the EU for the purposes of fostering research and innovation within the Union.

The proposed recommendation aims, in particular, at facilitating entry and mobility conditions for third-country researchers who wish to circulate within the EU for short-time periods (up to three months), **whether** these wish to be acquainted with scientific research programmes undertaken within the European Community **or** participate in such European projects for a short period of time **or** if they wish to take part in specific events (conferences or seminars).

II. Draftsman's comments

Your draftsman would like to welcome the present proposal and encourage the Member States to implement the whole set of its provisions.

It is particularly important to proceed rapidly with the implementation of the proposed recommendations in order to enhance the role of Europe as a worldwide leader in the field of research and promote the role of the European Research Area at an international level.

Your draftsman especially welcomes the issue of multiple entry visas, as he feels that this is an instrument which can significantly facilitate frequent travelling of third-country (especially highly qualified and renowned) researchers to Europe and enhance mobility of the latter within the Union. It is a flexible formula and particularly attractive to researchers who wish to maintain professional links to the organizations of their country of origin.

Your draftsman believes that, at a future point in time, the proposed recommendations should be reflected in a Community legal instrument of binding character.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission[1]	Amendments by Parliament
Amendment 1 Recital 13 a (new)	

[1] Not yet published in OJ.

	(13a) The recommendation is also intended to provide a flexible formula for reserchers who wish to maintain a professional link with an organisation of their country of origin (e.g. by spending periods of up to three months every semester in a European host research organisation located in the common area while continuing to work the rest of the time in the research organisation of origin).

Justification

Such an option must be given if Europe wishes to be competitive and attractive at world level.

Amendment 2
Paragraph 6

6. undertake to supply the Commission, one year after the adoption of the recommendation, with information about best practices adopted to facilitate the issue of uniform visas for researchers, to enable it to evaluate the progress made.	6. undertake to supply the Commission, one year after the adoption of the recommendation, with information about best practices adopted to facilitate the issue of uniform visas for researchers, to enable it to evaluate the progress made. ***Having regard to whether Directive .../.../EC on a specific procedure for admitting third-country nationals for purposes of scientific research has been adopted, and to the outcome of the evaluation, the possibility of incorporating the provisions of this Recommendation in an appropriate legally binding instrument will be examined.***

Justification

Notwithstanding the proportionality principle and as the proposed provisions have the potential to significantly contribute to enhancing Europe's role as a research "pole" at international level, it is desirable that these provisions are incorporated into a binding Community legal instrument in the future.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council to facilitate the issue by the Member States of uniform short-stay visas for researchers from third countries travelling within the European Community for the purpose of carrying out scientific research
References	COM(2004)0178 – C6-0013/2004 – 2004/0063(COD)
Committee responsible	LIBE
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	ITRE 15.9..2004
Enhanced cooperation	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Nikolaos Vakalis 7.10.2004
Discussed in committee	23.11.2004 18.1.2005 21.2.2005
Date amendments adopted	21.2.2005
Result of final vote	for: 43 against: 0 abstentions: 0
Members present for the final vote	Šarūnas Birutis, Jan Březina, Renato Brunetta, Jerzy Buzek, Joan Calabuig Rull, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Giles Chichester, Gianni De Michelis, Lena Ek, Nicole Fontaine, Adam Gierek, András Gyürk, David Hammerstein Mintz, Ján Hudacký, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Werner Langen, Anne Laperrouze, Pia Elda Locatelli, Eluned Morgan, Angelika Niebler, Reino Paasilinna, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Herbert Reul, Paul Rübig, Britta Thomsen, Patrizia Toia, Catherine Trautmann, Claude Turmes, Nikolaos Vakalis
Substitutes present for the final vote	Daniel Caspary, Dorette Corbey, Neena Gill, Norbert Glante, Edit Herczog, Peter Liese, Toine Manders, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Vittorio Prodi, John Purvis, Manuel António dos Santos, Esko Seppänen, Alyn Smith, Hannes Swoboda
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	