UPDATE ON NEW LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES - EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DG HOME
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Agenda

- New EU legislation regarding documents
  - ID cards
  - Emergency Travel documents
  - Amendments to the Visa Code
  - New EBCG Regulation

- Implementation
  - Visa
  - Residence permits

- Digital Visa
  - Study
Introduction

- Tackling the phenomenon of travel document fraud remains a priority for all States and the Commission underlined the crucial importance of travel document security as an key factor in better border protection and migration management and the move towards an effective and genuine Security Union.

- New legislative proposals to enhance the security of ID cards and Emergency Travel Documents have been put forward in line with this approach.
ID cards and residence documents

The Regulation was just adopted by the Council last week on 6 June 2019. It provides for:

- **Minimum security standards** in accordance with ICAO DOC 9303 and the uniform format for residence permits; Member States are free to add security features;

- An **integrated chip** with the facial image and 2 fingerprints mandatorily;

- No harmonised lay-out but a **European symbol**, a two-letter country code of the issuing Member State encircled by 12 yellow stars and printed in negative in a blue rectangle;

- A minimum period of **validity** of 5 years and maximum 10 years, with a few exceptions.
ID cards and residence documents

- **Residence documents for EU nationals** (not necessarily in card form) living in another Member State than their own have to indicate **minimum information**, such as the title in at least two languages, reference to Union citizenship, document number, name, date of birth, issuing authority and the European symbol.

- **Residence cards** issued to non-EU family members of mobile EU citizens shall be issued in the **format of the residence permit** according to Regulation (EC) 1030/2002.

- The **phasing out** of existing ID cards is set to 5 years after the date of application of the Regulation (2 years after entry into force) if they are not ICAO compliant and 10 years for compliant cards. For residence cards 2 and 5 years apply respectively.
The current **EU ETD** dates from 1996 and needed to be modernised.

The Commission proposal for a **Directive** on a new ETD is agreed and is planned to be adopted still this month.

It provides for a **new document consisting of a uniform threefold form and a sticker**, similar to the current visa sticker, to be affixed on it.

It shall be issued to **EU citizens who have lost their documents** in a foreign country. It can also be used for own citizens within the EU.

The **technical specifications** are to be set out by the Article 6 committee.
Amendments to the Visa Code

It will improve conditions for legitimate travellers, as well as increase the tools available to respond to the challenges posed by illegal migration.

The new rules will provide faster and clearer procedures for legitimate travellers, in particular by:

- allowing for applications to be lodged up to 6 months, and no later than 15 days, before the trip;
- providing for the possibility of the application form to be filled in and signed electronically;
- introducing a harmonised approach to the issuing of multiple entry visas to regular travellers with a positive visa history for a period which increases gradually from 1 to 5 years.
Amendments to the Visa Code

- **Covering costs of processing**
  - To ensure member states can better cover the costs of visa processing without constituting a deterrent for visa applicants, the visa fee will be increased to 80 euros.
  - The regulation also introduces a mechanism for reviewing every three years whether the visa fee should change.

- **Better cooperation on readmission of irregular migrants**
  - The regulation will also contribute to improving cooperation with third countries on readmission by introducing a new mechanism for using visa processing as leverage.
Amendments to the Visa Code

Better cooperation on readmission of irregular migrants

- the Commission will regularly assess third countries’ cooperation on readmission. Where a country is not cooperating, the Commission will propose that the Council adopt an implementing decision applying specific restrictive visa measures related to visa processing and, eventually, to the visa fee.

- On the other hand, if a country is found to be cooperating on readmission, the Commission may propose that the Council adopt an implementing decision providing for either a reduction in the visa fee, a reduction in the time to decide on visa applications, or an increase in the period of validity of multiple entry visas.
New EBCG Regulation

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) is being strengthened in terms of staff and technical equipment. It is also being given a broader mandate to support member states' activities on border protection, return and cooperation with third countries.

- The proposed new rules will incorporate the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR) into the Frontex framework;
- To ensure coherent management of external borders and to be able to respond to crisis situations, a standing corps will be set up, with up to 10 000 operational staff by 2027;
- They will allow Frontex to provide technical and operational support to member states in return operations;
- They will contribute to strengthening cooperation with third countries, by giving the agency wider scope for action and not limiting its possibilities for cooperation to neighbouring countries.
Implementation of the new visa sticker and the residence permit

- The technical specifications for the new uniform format for visas have been adopted. The deadline for the production of the new visa sticker is the 21 June 2019 and the date for using up the old visa sticker is 21 December 2019.

- Some Member States have already issued new visas such as Germany and Austria and unfortunately they were already targeted by forgers.

- For the new residence permit, the electronic data have only be recently distributed so that all Member States are in the phase of preparation.
COM was asked to explore how technologies provide new opportunities to facilitate visa processing for both applicants and consulates.

A study was commissioned which looks into the possible options to digitalise the visa application process and the visa sticker.

The idea is to check the visa holders data, which are already stored in the Visa Information System without a need of an additional sticker.

The study will be finished in August this year and COM will decide on taking initiatives in this sense.