



Revision of the Visa Code

- A smarter visa policy for economic growth -

Revision of the Visa Code

- Evaluation report (two years after full implementation):
'A smarter visa policy for economic growth'
(COM(2014)165)
+ Staff working doc
- Proposal for a revision of the Visa Code
(COM(2014)164)
- Proposal establishing a touring visa
(COM(2014)163)

Evaluation report

- Generally, the objectives of the Visa Code were fulfilled
- But implementation is sub-optimal
- Too many 'may' clauses
- Certain aspects have become obsolete

Main elements of Visa Code proposal

- Ease administrative burden for applicants and consulates
- Diversified treatment of 'first time applicants' and 'regular travellers'
- Procedural facilitations for all family members of EU citizens

Main changes proposed

- Abolition of 'lodging in person'
- Apply max 6 months ahead of intended travel
- Deadlines for decision making: 10 days (max 20 days)
- Visa fees: 0 EUR <18 years; optional waivers=>mandatory
- Abolition of travel medical insurance
- No requirement of 'direct access' to consulate
- ESP no longer 'last resort' – but annual reporting required
- Better information to the public
- Simplified rules on where to apply (e.g. separate trips in short period of time)

Procedural facilitations - linked to the Visa Information System

	<i>Lodging person in</i>	<i>Collection of fingerprints</i>	<i>Supporting documents</i>	<i>Visa to be issued</i>
<i>First time applicant, not VIS registered</i>	YES	YES	Full list corresponding to all entry conditions	In principle single but MEV also possible if the consulate considers applicant reliable
<i>VIS registered (but not regular traveller)</i>	NO	NO (unless fingerprints have not been collected within last 59 months)	Full list corresponding to all entry conditions	Single or MEV
<i>VIS registered regular traveller having lawfully used 2 visas in the 12 months prior to the application</i>	NO	NO	Only proof of travel purpose. Presumption because of 'positive visa history' of fulfilment of entry conditions	3-year MEV
<i>VIS registered regular traveller having lawfully used 3-year MEV</i>	NO	NO	Only proof of travel purpose	5-year MEV

Other proposed changes

- Temporary schemes for applying at external borders
- Improving consular coverage
- Representation: "mandatory representation"
- Rules on local Schengen cooperation strengthened

Useful link

Information on visa package:

- http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2014/20140401_01_en.htm