



Proposal for a 'touring visa'

Longer stays in the Schengen area

What is the proposed 'touring visa'?

Definition:

- *"authorisation issued by the Member States*
- *with a view to an intended stay in the territory of two or more Member States*
- *of a duration of more than 90 days,*
- *provided that the applicant does not intend to stay for more than 90 days in any 180-day period in the territory of the same Member State"*

What is the proposed 'touring visa'?

In other words:

- *Holders of a touring visa could travel around the Schengen area **for up to a year** (extendable by another year) without staying more than 3 months in any single Member State.*

Why? Legal gap

Currently:

- *Schengen short-stay visas (up to 90 days in any 180-day period) – "visitors"*
- *National long-stay visas / residence permits (more than 3 months) – "residents"*

[also valid as short-stay visas for other Schengen States, but subject to 90/180-day limit]

Why? Legal gap

What if someone wants to come for 5 months, travelling around the Schengen area (e.g. 1 month France, 2 m Italy, 1 m Germany, 1 m Poland) ?

- *Visa-free countries: bilateral agreements*
- *Visa-requiring countries: no "clean" solution*

Who? Target groups

- ***Touring groups:***
 - artists, live performers and their crew members
 - sports teams
- ***Individual travellers:***
 - tourists
 - researchers, students
 - business people, culture professionals
- ***Estimation: 100,000 – 120,000 per year***

How? Procedures...

*Visa Code and VIS Regulation **apply in principle**, e.g.:*

- *Same visa application procedures and actors*
- *Visa application form, supporting documents*
- *No derogation from the visa fee (EUR 60)*
- *Data on applications will be stored in VIS*

How? Procedures...

*Some **derogations and exceptions**, e.g.:*

- *Member State competent for processing the application is the one the applicant intends to visit first (instead of the "main destination")*
- *applications can also be lodged within the territory of Member States*
- *the deadline for deciding on the application is 20 days (instead of 15 days (currently) / 10 days (proposed) for short-stay visas)*

How? Procedures...

Additional conditions:

- *proof for **complying with the 90-day time limit** for each Member State (e.g. travel reservations, tour schedules, invitations)*
- ***stable economic situation** (e.g. salary slips or bank statements, entitlement to pension; scholarship; sponsorship letter)*
- ***regular sickness insurance** (different from travel medical insurance)*

How long?

- *Always allows for **multiple entries***
 - ***Maximum 1 year** (when applying)*
 - *Possible **extension for up to 1 year***
- ***Maximum total stay of 2 years***

What about the bilateral agreements?

- *The **possibility for individual Member States to "extend" the authorised stay** of nationals of visa-free third countries (US, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, etc.) beyond 90 days on the basis of bilateral visa waiver agreements concluded in the past would be **abolished**.*
 - **Not compatible with common visa policy**
 - **No reciprocity**

What about the bilateral agreements?

- *Responding to the concerns of certain countries:*
 - transitional period of 5 years for phasing out bilateral agreements
 - no fingerprinting required for nationals of visa-free (for short stay) countries
 - possibility of extension, allowing for a total maximum stay of two years (not in original proposal)