



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 30.7.2018
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Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code) {COM(2018) 252 final}.

While migration and security related objectives have become increasingly important, the vast majority of visa applicants pose no security or migratory risk to the European Union and can bring significant economic benefits.

Therefore, the proposal amending the Visa Code focuses on streamlining and improving operational aspects of the visa procedure and takes account of the results of negotiations on the proposal for a recast of the 2014 Visa Code that was later withdrawn. The new proposal includes provisions giving more flexibility for applicants to apply for a visa and better organisation of the work of consulates. New elements have been added such as the need for sufficient financial resources to support Member States' visa processing or clear rules on the issuing of multiple entry visas with a long period of validity.

The aim of the proposal is also to update the visa procedures to better respond to the changed migratory and security situation, including the leverage role that visa policy can exert in the Union's readmission policy.

The Commission is pleased that the Assembleia da República shares the Commission's view on key issues such as the need for an increase of the visa fee, the advantages of the 'cascade' model for issuing of multiple entry visas, with the possibility of a more favourable or more restrictive implementation adapted to local circumstances, and the codification of the link between visa policy and cooperation on readmission.

Discussions on the proposal are now underway between the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission remains hopeful that an agreement can be reached on its proposal in the near future.

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The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Assembleia da Repúbliga in the future.

Yours faithfully,

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Member of the Commission*