



ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Written Opinion

COM(2016) 290

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (revision of the suspension mechanism).



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PART I – INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 7 of Law No 43/2006 of 25 August 2006 on monitoring, assessment and pronouncement by the Assembly of the Republic within the scope of the process of constructing the European Union, as amended by Law No 21/2012 of 17 May 2012 and in accordance with the Guidelines for the scrutiny of EU initiatives approved on 8 January 2013, the Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (revision of the suspension mechanism) has been submitted to the European Affairs Committee.

PART II - RECITALS

1. The purpose behind this proposal is to review the visa suspension mechanism provided for in Article 1a of Regulation (EC) No 539/2001¹, which allows Member States to temporarily suspend the visa exemption for nationals of a third country in certain emergency situations, as a last resort.

2. This review is inseparable from the current migratory situation in Europe. This reality has raised questions from various Member States in terms of the flexibility of the use of the mechanism of suspending visas. Various Member States have argued that ‘the possible grounds for suspension

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 lists the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of a visa when crossing the external borders of the Member States and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.



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are too limited', that 'the initiative to trigger the suspension mechanism should be extended to the Commission; and that the reference periods and deadlines are too long', which does not allow for a swift response in the event of an emergency.

3. The revision of this Regulation is aimed at strengthening this suspension mechanism, thus allowing Member States to notify circumstances leading to a possible suspension and enabling the Commission to trigger the mechanism itself. The definition of the circumstances under which Member States can provide notification to the Commission has therefore been amended, in order to clarify the circumstances under which the suspension mechanism is activated. In such circumstances, i.e. 'emergency situations, as a last resort', Member States may use the mechanism in a more general way, specifically if the liberalisation of the visa rules leads to a significant increase in irregular immigration, unfounded asylum applications or rejected readmission applications.

4. Lastly, in view of its subject-matter, this proposal has been submitted to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Portuguese Communities and the Committee on Education and Science which have analysed it and approved their own thorough and detailed Reports on the content of the Proposal, and which form a full and integral part of this Written Opinion. This serves to avoid repetition of analysis, which would be redundant.

PART III – PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY

The Proposal for a Regulation states that 'The suspension mechanism [...] is an integral part of the EU's common visa policy'. As such, the strengthening of the



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suspension mechanism and the resulting efficiency obtained and the extent of its application to the European Commission can only be achieved by action taken at Union level. It can therefore be assumed that the Member States cannot individually achieve this strategic objective.

There has not therefore been any breach of the principle of subsidiarity since, given the complexity and scope of the proposed objectives, it is clear that they can be achieved more easily by means of action at Union level.

PART IV – OPINION

1. This initiative does not breach the principle of subsidiarity, in so far as the objective pursued will be achieved more effectively by means of action at Union level.
2. Concerning the questions raised in the recitals, the European Affairs Committee will continue to monitor the legislative process relating to these initiatives, particularly by exchanging information with the Government.

Palácio de São Bento, 22 June 2016

Rapporteur

Chair of the Committee

(Pedro Mota Soares)

(Regina Bastos)



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PART V – ANNEXES

Report from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees

Report from the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Portuguese Communities

Report from the Committee on Education and Science

ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, RIGHTS, FREEDOMS AND
GUARANTEES

REPORT

COM (2016) 290 final - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (Revision of the suspension mechanism).

I. Preliminary remarks

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Law No 43/2006 of 25 August 2006, as amended by Law No 21/2012 of 17 May 2012, on *monitoring, assessment and pronouncement by the Assembly of the Republic within the scope of the process of constructing the European Union*, the European Affairs Committee asked the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees to issue a report on document COM (2016) 290 final - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (revision of the suspension mechanism).

The purpose of the report is to analyse compliance with the principle of subsidiarity, in accordance with Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality annexed to the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

II. Objectives, content and grounds of the initiative

COM (2016) 290 final is a Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (revision of the suspension mechanism).

Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001, which this Proposal for a Regulation intends to amend, lists the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of a visa when crossing the external borders of the Member States and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.

In 2011, the Commission proposed to establish a ‘visa safeguard clause’ in Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 which would allow for the temporary suspension of the visa exemption for the nationals of a third country for a short period of time, as a matter of urgency and on the basis of well-defined criteria, to solve possible difficulties faced

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by one or several Member States in case of sudden and substantial increase of irregular migration, unfounded asylum applications or rejected readmission applications submitted by a Member State to the third country concerned.

On 11 December 2013, the European Parliament and Council adopted Regulation (EU) No 1289/2013, which amended Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 by introducing the so-called 'suspension mechanism' and modifying the existing reciprocity mechanism.

This suspension mechanism in Article 1a of Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 allows the temporary suspension of the visa exemption for nationals of a third country in certain emergency situations, as a last resort.

In the context of the current migratory situation in the European Union, several Member States have questioned whether the existing visa suspension mechanism provides for the necessary flexibility to act in certain situations of urgency.

In this respect, the mechanism for the temporary suspension of the exemption from the visa requirement for the nationals of a third country listed in Annex II of that regulation ('the suspension mechanism') should be strengthened by making it easier for Member States to notify circumstances leading to a possible suspension and by enabling the Commission to trigger the mechanism on its own initiative.

In particular, the use of the mechanism is now eased by shortening reference periods and deadlines allowing for a faster procedure and by extending the possible grounds of suspension, which now include a substantial increase in the number of rejected readmission applications for third-country nationals having transited through the third country concerned, where a readmission agreement concluded between the Union or a Member State and that third country provides for such a readmission obligation (new wording for Article 1(2)).

The Commission is also now able to trigger the mechanism in case the third country fails to cooperate on readmission, in particular where a readmission agreement has been concluded between the third country concerned and the Union (amendment to Article 1 by a new Article 2A).

The Regulation is expected to come into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

- **Legal basis**

The Proposal for a Regulation constitutes a development of the Schengen acquis and has as its legal basis Article 77(2)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

- **Principle of subsidiarity**

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The suspension mechanism laid down in Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 is an integral part of the EU's common visa policy.

The objective of this Regulation is to strengthen that mechanism in order to make it more effective, by enlarging its scope of application and enabling the Commission to trigger it on its own initiative.

For the purposes of the provisions of Article 5(1) and (2) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and Article 69 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, the objectives proposed cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States acting unilaterally, but better achieved by action taken at EU level, by means of the adoption of this Proposal for a Regulation.

Since the objectives of this Regulation cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can rather, by reason of the scale and effects of the action, be better achieved at Union level, it can be concluded that the Union may adopt such measures, the proposal complies with the principle of subsidiarity and does not go beyond what is necessary in order to meet its objectives.

III - Conclusions

In view of the above, the Committee for Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees has hereby reached the following conclusion:

- a) COM (2016) 290 final - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (revision of the suspension mechanism) does not compromise the principle of subsidiarity.
- b) This report should be sent to the European Affairs Committee

Palácio de São Bento, 25 May 2016

Rapporteur

Chair of the Committee

[Signed]

[Signed]

Sara Madrugada Costa

Bacelar de Vasconcelos

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Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Portuguese Communities

Report	Rapporteur:
COM (2016) 290 final	Paula Teixeira da Cruz

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.

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PART I – INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Law No 43/2006 of 25 August 2006, as amended by Law No 21/2012 of 17 May 2012, on monitoring, assessment and pronouncement by the Assembly of the Republic within the scope of the process of constructing the European Union, the European Affairs Committee sent the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Portuguese Communities, document COM (2016) final - **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (revision of the suspension mechanism)**, given its subject matter, for examination and drafting of this report.

PART II - RECITALS

1. Context of the Proposal

The proposal underlines the fact that, following the visa liberalisation decisions for the Western Balkans countries, the Commission proposed in 2011 to establish a ‘visa safeguard clause’ in Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 which would allow for the temporary suspension of the visa exemption for the nationals of a third country for a short period of time, as a matter of urgency and on the basis of well-defined criteria, to solve possible difficulties faced by one or several Member States in case of sudden and substantial increase of irregular migration, unfounded asylum applications or rejected readmission applications submitted by a Member States to the third country concerned.

It also states that on 11 December 2013, the European Parliament and Council adopted Regulation (EU) No 1289/2013, which amended Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 by introducing the so-called ‘suspension mechanism’ and modifying the existing reciprocity mechanism.

This suspension mechanism in Article 1a of Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 allows the temporary suspension of the visa exemption for nationals of a third country in certain emergency situations, as a last resort. It can be triggered by any Member State by notifying the Commission that it is confronted, over a six-month period, in comparison with the same period in the previous year or with the last six months prior to the visa liberalisation of that country, with circumstances leading to an emergency situation which the Member State in question cannot remedy on its own.

These circumstances are namely, and in accordance with the document in question, a substantial and sudden increase in the number of:

- nationals of that third country found to be illegally overstaying in the Member State in question;

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- unfounded asylum applications from the nationals of that third country, where such increase is leading to specific pressures on the Member State's asylum system;
- rejected readmission applications submitted by the Member State to that third country for its own nationals.

When notifying the Commission, the Member State must state the reasons for triggering the mechanism, provide relevant data and statistics, as well as describe the preliminary measures that it has taken in order to remedy the situation. The Commission then informs both the Council and the European Parliament and examines the situation and the scope of the problem (number of Member States affected, impact on the overall migratory situation in the Union).

The Commission may therefore decide that action is needed, taking into account the consequences of the suspension of the visa exemption for the external relations of the Union and its Member States with the third country concerned, while working in close cooperation with that third country to find alternative long-term solutions. In that case, the Commission has a period of three months from the receipt of the notification to adopt an implementing act temporarily suspending the exemption from the visa requirement for the nationals of the third country concerned, for a period of six months.

Before the expiry of this six-month period, the Commission must submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council. This report may be accompanied by a legislative proposal to amend Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 to transfer the third country in question to the list of visa-obligation countries (Annex I), and thus to put its citizens permanently under the visa requirement. In such case, the temporary suspension of the visa waiver may be extended by a maximum period of 12 months.

The proposal also stresses that in the context of the current migratory situation in the European Union and of the successful conclusion of several discussions on visa liberalisation with neighbouring countries (Georgia, Ukraine, Kosovo, Turkey), several Member States have questioned whether the existing visa suspension mechanism provides for the necessary flexibility to act in certain situations of urgency, bearing in mind that they consider that:

- the possible grounds for suspension are too limited, and for instance do not include the failure of a third country to cooperate on readmission of third-country nationals having transited through that third country, where a readmission agreement concluded between the Union or a Member State and the third country concerned provides for such a readmission obligation;
- the initiative to trigger the suspension mechanism by means of a notification, which in the Regulation lies solely with Member States, should be extended to the Commission;

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- the reference periods and the deadlines are too long, which does not allow for a fast reaction in emergency situations.

Therefore, taking into account the Commission's recent proposals for visa liberalisation for nationals of Georgia, Ukraine, Turkey and Kosovo, and the recent discussions with Member States, the Commission has decided to present a proposal to amend Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 to revise the current suspension mechanism.

The main objective of the proposed amendment is to strengthen the suspension mechanism by making it easier for Member States to notify circumstances leading to a possible suspension and by enabling the Commission to trigger the mechanism on its own initiative. In particular, the use of the mechanism should be facilitated by shortening reference periods and deadlines, allowing for a faster procedure, and by extending the possible grounds of suspension, which should include a substantial increase in the number of rejected readmission applications for third-country nationals having transited through that third country, where a readmission agreement concluded by the Union or a Member State and the third country concerned provides for such a readmission obligation. The Commission should also be able to trigger the mechanism in case the third country fails to cooperate on readmission, in particular where a readmission agreement has been concluded between that third country and the Union.

2. Legal basis, subsidiarity and proportionality

As the proposal will amend the EU's common visa policy, the legal basis for the proposal is point (a) of Article 77(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The proposed regulation will constitute a development of the Schengen acquis.

This proposal therefore considers that the suspension mechanism laid down in Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 is an integral part of the European Union's common visa policy. The objective of strengthening that mechanism in order to make it more effective, by enlarging its scope of application and by enabling the Commission to trigger it on its own initiative, can only be achieved by action at Union level, namely by an amendment to the Regulation. Member States cannot act individually to achieve the policy objective and are bound by the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. In accordance with the proposal, no other (non-legislative) options to achieve the policy objective are available.

- **Fundamental rights**

This proposal has no negative consequences for the protection of fundamental rights in the European Union.

3. Analysis of the initiative

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This proposal for the revision of the suspension mechanism in Article 1a of Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 includes the following elements:

- The definition of the circumstances which Member States can notify to the Commission has been amended to clarify that the suspension mechanism cannot only be used in 'emergency situations, as a last resort', but more generally in case the visa liberalisation leads to a serious increase of irregular migration, unfounded asylum applications or rejected readmission applications.
- The reference period for comparing this situation with the situation of the previous year or before visa liberalisation, is shortened from six to two months.
- It is sufficient for the increase of irregular migration, unfounded asylum applications or rejected readmission applications to be 'substantial', whereas the increase must currently be 'sudden and substantial'.
- The grounds for possible suspension which can be notified should include rejected readmission applications for nationals of another third country having transited through that third country, where a readmission agreement concluded between the Union or a Member State and the third country concerned provides for such a readmission obligation.
- The limitation in time (to seven years) of the possibility to compare the current situation with the situation before visa liberalisation is abolished.

It also provides that the Commission is given the possibility to trigger the suspension mechanism on its own initiative if it has concrete and reliable information of any of the circumstances which Member States can notify or that the third country is – in a more general manner – not cooperating on readmission, in particular where an EU-level readmission agreement has been concluded with that third country. This failure to cooperate can, for instance, consist in:

- rejecting or not replying to readmission applications,
- failing to issue travel documents for the purposes of return within deadlines specified in the agreement or not accepting European travel documents issued following the lapse of deadlines specified in the agreement,
- terminating or suspending the agreement.

Lastly, if the Commission, after having examined the circumstances notified (or of which it has received concrete and reliable information), decides that action is needed, the deadline for the adoption of the implementing act temporarily suspending the visa exemption for the third country concerned is reduced from three months to one month.

PART III – RAPPORTEUR'S OPINION

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In our view, this Proposal amounts to greater security within the Union, without provision being made for additional support measures as regards refugees.

PART IV – CONCLUSIONS

1. In accordance with Article 7(2) of Law No 43/2006 of 25 August 2006, as amended by Law No 21/2012 of 17 May 2012, on monitoring, assessment and pronouncement by the Assembly of the Republic within the scope of the process of constructing the European Union, the European Affairs Committee sent the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Portuguese Communities the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.
2. Given the subject-matter in question and the importance of this issue, for both Portugal and the European Union, we would recommend careful monitoring of future developments as regards the measures relating to this and related initiatives.
3. This initiative complies with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.
4. The Committee therefore considers its examination of this initiative to be complete. Pursuant to Law No 43/2006 of 25 August 2006, this Report must be forwarded to the European Affairs Committee for the appropriate purposes.

Palácio de São Bento, 31 May 2016

Rapporteur

Chair of the Committee

[Signed]

[Signed]

Paula Teixeira da Cruz

Sérgio Sousa Pinto

Portuguese Communist Party

Parliamentary Group

EXPLANATION OF VOTE

ON THE REPORTS CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:

COM (2016) 194 - Final - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) to register entry and exit data and refusal of entry data of third country nationals crossing the external borders of the Member States of the European Union and determining the conditions for access to the EES for law enforcement purposes, and amending Regulation (EC) No 767/2008 and Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011.

COM (2016) 196 Final - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 as regards the use of the Entry/Exit System

COM (2016) 290 Final - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement

The PCP distances itself entirely from the assumptions made and content of these proposals. Under the guise of combating terrorism and profiting from the legitimate fear of crime motivated by recent attacks in Europe, a PNR (Passenger Name Records) Directive has been approved, already rejected by the European Parliament in 2013.

Under the pretext of the ‘fight against terrorism’, the swift implementation of this system is being advocated as a means of preventing and avoiding terrorist attacks.

The proposal provides for the creation of passenger profiles in order to identify potential suspected perpetrators of unlawful acts by means of the transfer of data from airlines to Member States for a period of five years. In practice, any European or non-European citizen, travelling within the EU, is considered a suspect at the outset, making it possible, going far beyond the fight against terrorism, to identify and create profiles (that are not solely criminal ones) for trade unionists and political activists, amongst others.

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Committee on Education and Science

Report

Rapporteur:

COM(2016) 290 final

Susana Amador, Member of
Parliament

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement

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Committee on Education and Science

PART I – INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Law No 43/2006 of 25 August 2006, as amended by Law No 21/2012 of 17 May 2012, on monitoring, assessment and pronouncement by the Assembly of the Republic within the scope of the process of constructing the European Union, the European Affairs Committee sent the Committee on Education and Science the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement, given its subject matter, for examination and drafting of this report.

PART II - RECITALS

1. Analysis of the Proposal Context, justifications and objectives

This Proposal for a Regulation follows the introduction in 2013 of a safeguard clause allowing Member States to temporarily suspend the exemption from the visa requirement for nationals of third countries with which the EU has concluded visa waiver agreements (Regulation (EU) No 1289/2013).

This suspension is temporary in nature and may be used only in emergency situations and as a last resort. Taking into account the current migration crisis, some Member States are under significant pressure to cope with the huge influx of people entering their countries, many of whom are in an irregular situation. It is therefore important to review the effectiveness and enforceability of the current suspension and to propose appropriate changes to how it operates

The current regime defines in particular the emergency situations in which Member States may trigger the suspension mechanism. First of all, a temporary criterion of comparison is introduced: the Member State must have been confronted with this situation for a period of six months compared to the same period in the previous year or with the last six months prior to the entry into force of the visa liberalisation system. Specifically, an emergency situation arises if there is a sudden high number of:

- Nationals of a third country found to be illegally overstaying in the Member State in question;
- Unfounded asylum applications from the nationals of a third country, where such increase is leading to specific pressures on the Member State's asylum system;
- Rejected readmission applications submitted by the Member State to the third country for its own nationals.

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However, this safeguard clause or suspension mechanism has never been implemented because the criterion for implementing them seems inflexible, making the process time-consuming and inefficient. The Commission has also recently opened negotiations to grant visa liberalisation to nationals of a series of countries (Georgia, Ukraine, Turkey and Kosovo) and therefore circumstances would require a review of the suspension mechanism.

In this sense, the purpose behind this Proposal is to improve the suspension mechanism, making it easier for Member States to notify the Commission and for the Commission to trigger the mechanism as a result of the following changes:

- In addition to the reference to ‘emergency situation, as a last resort’, the Proposal also states that ‘in case the visa liberalisation leads to a serious increase of irregular migration, unfounded asylum applications or rejected readmission applications’, and the reference period is reduced from six to two months;
- It is sufficient for the increase in irregular migration to be ‘substantial’, rather than ‘sudden and substantial’;
- The grounds for possible suspension which can be notified should include rejected readmission applications for nationals of another third country having transited through that third country, provided that a readmission agreement concluded between the Union or a Member State and the third country concerned provides for such a readmission obligation.
- The limitation in time (to seven years) of the possibility to compare the current situation with the situation before visa liberalisation is abolished.
- In addition to the Member States, the Commission could also implement the suspension mechanism;
- The period for the adoption of the implementing act by the Commission, which implements the suspension, after notification, is reduced from three to two months.

Legal basis, subsidiarity and proportionality

The legal basis is Article 77(2)(b) of the TFUE, and constitutes an update to the Schengen acquis.

The principles of subsidiarity and proportionality have been complied with, since this issue is substantially one on which Member States cannot act individually. In fact, it is an update to the Schengen acquis and with regard to this issue, action needs to be taken at European level. Since it is an update to a Regulation, the most effective instrument would therefore be a Regulation.

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PART III - RAPPORTEUR'S OPINION

The Rapporteur has not availed herself of the right to express an opinion on the initiative.

PART IV - CONCLUSIONS

1. In accordance with the provisions of Article 7(2) of Law No 43/2006 of 25 August 2006, as amended by Law No 21/2012 of 17 May 2012, on monitoring, assessment and pronouncement by the Assembly of the Republic within the scope of the process of constructing the European Union, the European Affairs Committee sent the Committee on Education and Science the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.
2. After examining the Proposal for a Regulation, we conclude that the principle of subsidiarity has been complied with, since its strategic objectives can only be achieved through action at European level, by means of a Regulation.
3. The Committee therefore considers its examination of this initiative to be complete, without prejudice to the continued monitoring of EU legislative initiatives on this subject by the Portuguese Parliament. Pursuant to Law No 43/2006 of 25 August 2006, this Report should be forwarded to the European Affairs Committee for the appropriate purposes.

Palácio de São Bento, 24 May 2016

Rapporteur

[Signed]

Susana Amador

President of the Commission

[Signed]

Alexandre Quintanilha