



Parlamentul României Senat

Bucharest, June 21, 2020

Courtesy translation

OPINION of the SENATE of ROMANIA

on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council State of play as regards the situation of non-reciprocity in the area of visa policy COM (2020) 119 final

The Romanian Senate examined the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council - State of play as regards the situation of non-reciprocity in the area of visa policy - COM (2020) 119 final, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no. 1).

Taking into account the report of May 29, 2020 of the Committee for European Affairs, **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session of June 12, 2020

1. Welcomes:
 - a) the inclusion of Poland in the United States Visa Waiver Program, on November 11, 2019;
 - b) the involvement of the European Commission for the extension of the Visa Waiver program to all EU member states.
2. Recalls that:
 - a) Romania has made and continues to make constant efforts to reduce the percentage of refusal of visa applications, by complying with the criteria, but especially through information campaigns for the correct completion of the necessary forms;
 - b) the majority of refusals are generated by the erroneous completion of the forms by which the visa is requested;
 - c) Romania constantly asks the American side to distinguish between the correct completion rate of the forms and the observance of the criteria *per se*;
 - d) the progress registered is obvious, considering the evolution of the rejection rate (in 2016 of 11.4, in 2017 of 11.76, in 2018 of 10.44, and in 2019 of 9.11).
3. Requests:
 - a) the support of the European Commission in the steps initiated by Romania in November 2019, during the tripartite meeting in Brussels, to agree with the US a revised form of the

- Action Plan submitted by the American side, so that it includes determined and quantifiable actions;
- b) the active involvement of the European Commission in this respect, given the non-reciprocity regime between EU and American citizens, recalling that there are still EU Member States that allow their free entry, while their own citizens need a visa to travel to the US.

p. President of the Senate
Robert-Marius CAZANCIUC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. M. CAZANCIUC', written in a cursive style.