



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 13.8.2020
C(2020) 5595 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion 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}.

Visa reciprocity is a fundamental principle of the EU visa policy. The Commission welcomes the Senat's Opinion on the Commission's involvement and ongoing efforts to achieve visa reciprocity for all Member States. Through continued engagement and diplomatic contacts with third countries, tangible results have been achieved, including with the United States, such as Poland joining the United States Visa Waiver Program in November 2019.

The Commission reiterates its intention to actively support the four Member States concerned, including Romania, and to work closely with them in order to help them fulfil the requirements for United States Visa Waiver Program designation.

Regarding the outstanding United States Visa Waiver Program requirements, the Commission notes that Romania has recorded a steady decrease of the visa refusal rate over the last years. This positive development should be maintained in particular after travel restrictions applied in the context of the COVID-19 global pandemic are eased.

During the most recent tripartite meeting on visa reciprocity, which took place 18-19 June 2020 as a video-conference (bringing together representatives of the Commission, the United States and the Member States concerned), workplans containing actions for Visa Waiver Program compliance regarding security requirements were discussed. In this context, the United States committed to continue to review the respective workplans and give continuous feedback to the Member States concerned – including to Romania.

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The Commission will continue its engagement with the United States and with the Member States concerned to accelerate progress towards full visa reciprocity.

The Commission hopes that these comments address the issues raised by the Senat and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Member of the Commission