



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LIMITE

**VISA 166
COMIX 482**

NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Delegations
Subject: VIS - state of play

The VIS was successfully launched on 11 October 2011 in the first region of deployment (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia).

At its meeting on 8 February 2012, the Mixed Committee at the level of the Permanent Representatives took note of the time schedule regarding the roll-out of the Visa Information System in the second and third regions on the basis of 6028/12. The VIS was launched as scheduled on 10 May 2012 in the second region (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria) and is expected to be launched as scheduled in the third region (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) on 2 October 2012.

On 24 April 2012, the Commission adopted a decision determining the second set of regions (regions 4 to 11)¹.

¹ Commission implementing Decision 2012/274/EU (OJ L 134, 24.5.2012, p.134).

FoVIS since then met on 1 June and 18 July 2012. At the meeting on 18 July, the Presidency concluded that a majority of delegations and the Commission agreed on the following time schedule regarding the roll-out of the VIS in the fourth to eleventh regions:

- The VIS will be launched on Thursday 14 March 2013 in **region 4** (West Africa) and **region 5** (Central Africa). Pursuant to Article 48(3) of the VIS Regulation, the Member States should transmit their notifications of readiness at the latest by 11 January 2013.

- The VIS will be launched on Thursday 6 June 2013 in **region 6** (East Africa) and **region 7** (South Africa). Pursuant to Article 48(3) of the VIS Regulation, the Member States should transmit their notifications of readiness at the latest by 22 February 2013.

- The VIS will be launched on Thursday 5 September 2013 in **region 8** (South America). Pursuant to Article 48(3) of the VIS Regulation, the Member States should transmit their notifications of readiness at the latest by 24 May 2013.

- The VIS will be launched on Thursday 14 November 2013 in **region 9** (Central Asia), **region 10** (South-East Asia) and **region 11** (the occupied Palestinian Territory). Pursuant to Article 48(3) of the VIS Regulation, the Member States should transmit their notifications of readiness at the latest by 19 July 2013.

It was underlined that it is necessary to strictly respect the said deadlines for notifications in order to give the Commission sufficient time to adopt and publish the necessary decision determining the date of start of operations in each respective region pursuant to Article 48(3) of the VIS Regulation. The Commission has already provided delegations with the templates to be used for the purpose of the notifications.

The next FoVIS meeting will take place on 12 September 2012. The priorities of the Presidency are to further look at the determination of the third set of regions for the consular roll-out of the VIS in order to prepare for the adoption by the Commission of its third and final decision and to ensure proper coordination of the information campaign.