



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 12 December 2003

16043/03

**VISA 201
COMIX 759
OC 849**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat
to : Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject : Draft Council Decision amending the third paragraph of Part V of the Common Consular Instructions
COMMON GUIDELINES
Consultation deadline: 19.12.2003

1. An analysis of the data concerning illegal immigration has shown that short-term visas (tourism, business, study, visits to relatives) are the ones most often used for the purpose of regularly entering the territory of the Schengen group of countries and then going underground when the visa expires. In order to assess an immigration risk, it appears necessary to step up further local consular cooperation in determining what additional and/or supplementary documents should be required for issuing visas and as regards the adoption of common mechanisms for detecting false or falsified documents more effectively.

The aim of the above draft Decision is to enhance diplomatic missions' and consular posts' ability to exercise more effectively the powers they possess to assess the immigration risk, when handling visa applications.

2. The Italian Republic submitted the above proposal on 11-12 November 2003 to the Visa Working Party that reached agreement on the proposal on 4-5.12.2003

3. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore asked to advise the Council to adopt as "A" item at its meeting on 22 December 2003 the Decision as set out in 15582/03 VISA 197 COMIX 737 OC 803 (text finalised by the legal/linguistic experts).
