

**COUNCIL DECISION****of 29.4.2004**

amending the Common Manual in order to include provision  
for targeted border controls on accompanied minors

(2004/466/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 790/2001 of 24 April 2001 reserving to the Council implementing powers with regard to certain detailed provisions and practical procedures for carrying out border checks and surveillance <sup>1</sup>,

Having regard to the initiative of the Italian Republic,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 116, 26.4.2001, p. 5.

Whereas:

- (1) It is necessary to adopt special procedures for entry and exit checks on persons crossing the external borders, including on accompanied minors, given especially that the persons accompanying or supposedly accompanying minors are in fact often traffickers in human beings, and provision should be made for border control authorities to pay particular attention to all travelling minors.
- (2) Point 5 of the Declaration of the Executive Committee of 9 February 1998 on the abduction of minors states that "it is equally imperative that the authorities responsible for border control systematically check the identity papers and the travel documents of minors. This is particularly important if minors are travelling in the company of just one adult".
- (3) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Community, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Decision, and is not bound by it or subject to its application. Given that this Decision builds upon the Schengen acquis, under the provisions of Title IV of Part Three of the Treaty establishing the European Community, Denmark shall , in accordance with Article 5 of the said Protocol, decide, within a period of six months after the Council has adopted this Decision, whether it will implement it into its national law.

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- (4) As regards Iceland and Norway, this Decision constitutes a development of provisions of the Schengen acquis, within the meaning of the Agreement concluded by the Council of the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the association of those two States with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point A of Council Decision 1999/437/EC of 17 May 1999 <sup>1</sup> on certain arrangements for the application of that Agreement.
- (5) This Decision constitutes a development of provisions of the Schengen acquis in which the United Kingdom does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision 2000/365/EC of 29 May 2000 concerning the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen acquis <sup>2</sup>; the United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
- (6) This Decision constitutes a development of provisions of the Schengen acquis in which Ireland does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision 2002/192/EC of 28 February 2002 concerning Ireland's request to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen acquis <sup>3</sup>; Ireland is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
- (7) This Decision constitutes an act building upon the Schengen *acquis* or otherwise related to it, within the meaning of Article 3(1) of the Act of Accession,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p.31.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p.43.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In the second paragraph of point 6.8.1 of Part II of the Common Manual, the sentence reading: "Staff carrying out checks must pay particular attention to minors travelling unaccompanied" shall be amended as follows: "Staff carrying out checks must pay particular attention to minors, whether travelling accompanied or unaccompanied".

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States in accordance with the Treaty establishing the European Community.

Done at Luxembourg, 29.4.2004.

For the Council  
The President  
M. McDOWELL

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