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REPORT

on the proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 laying down a uniform format for visas as regards the numbering of visas
(COM(2008)0188 – C6-0187/2008 – 2008/0074(CNS))

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Rapporteur: Gérard Deprez

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- *** Assent procedure
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases
covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and
Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission.)

Amendments to a legislative text

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. In the case of amending acts, passages in an existing provision that the Commission has left unchanged, but that Parliament wishes to amend, are highlighted in **bold**. Any deletions that Parliament wishes to make in passages of this kind are indicated thus: [...]. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). Suggested corrections of this kind are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 laying down a uniform format for visas as regards the numbering of visas (COM(2008)0188 – C6-0187/2008 – 2008/0074(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal (COM(2008)0188),
 - having regard to Article 62(2)(b)(iii) of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Article 67 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C6-0187/2008),
 - having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A6-0268/2008),
1. Approves the Commission proposal;
 2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament if it intends to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 3. Calls on the Council to consult Parliament again if it intends to amend the Commission proposal substantially;
 4. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The proposed amendment to Council Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 laying down a uniform format for visas is closely linked to the Visa Information System (VIS) to be established by the VIS Regulation. Once the VIS becomes operational, it will retrieve the relevant application file for a visa from the visa sticker number. Therefore, a unique visa sticker number is a precondition for the proper functioning of the VIS.

Since the current provisions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 and the additional technical specifications have not led to a unique visa numbering in the Member States, the wording of the Annex of Regulation No 1683/95 needs to be changed in order to ensure a harmonised visa sticker number before the VIS enters into force.

This being the objective of the proposed amendment to Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 the Rapporteur suggests approving the Commission proposal without amendments.

PROCEDURE

Title	Numbering of visas
References	COM(2008)0188 – C6-0187/2008 – 2008/0074(CNS)
Date of consulting Parliament	14.5.2008
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	LIBE 20.5.2008
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Gérard Deprez 28.5.2008
Discussed in committee	25.6.2008
Date adopted	25.6.2008
Result of final vote	+: 32 –: 0 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Alexander Alvaro, Emine Bozkurt, Philip Bradbourn, Mihael Brejc, Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg, Giusto Catania, Jean-Marie Cavada, Elly de Groen-Kouwenhoven, Panayiotis Demetriou, Gérard Deprez, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, Armando França, Urszula Gacek, Kinga Gál, Patrick Gaubert, Roland Gewalt, Lilli Gruber, Livia Járóka, Ewa Klamt, Magda Kósáné Kovács, Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler, Stavros Lambrinidis, Roselyne Lefrançois, Baroness Sarah Ludford, Claude Moraes, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Rareș-Lucian Niculescu, Martine Roure, Inger Segelström, Csaba Sógor, Vladimir Urutchev, Ioannis Varvitsiotis, Manfred Weber
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Maria da Assunção Esteves, Ignasi Guardans Cambó, Sophia in 't Veld, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Antonio Masip Hidalgo, Bill Newton Dunn, Nicolae Vlad Popa
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Syed Kamall