



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LIMITE

**VISA 273
COMIX 780**

NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Council

No. Cion prop.: 7298/06 VISA 80 COMIX 267 (COM(2006) 110 final)

No. prev. doc. 12658/07 VISA 269 COMIX 767

Subject: Modified draft Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) 1030/2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals

The Commission submitted on 13 March 2006 a modified proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) 1030/2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals.

The European Parliament delivered its opinion on the proposal on 20 June 2007.

At its meeting on 12 and 13 June 2007, the JHA Council/Mixed Committee took note of the state of play regarding the proposal and mandated the relevant bodies of the Council to find a resolution on the outstanding issues.

Following the meeting of SCIFA/Mixed Committee on 25 July 2007 and the discussions between Heads of delegations of that Committee on 5 September 2007, the JHA Counsellors group examined on 7 September 2007 the revised text proposed by the Presidency in 12658/07 VISA 269 COMIX 767.

The proposed text - the draft Regulation set out in Annex I and the draft statements set out in Annex II - was agreed subject to parliamentary scrutiny reservations by UK and NL. Consideration was given to the opinion of the European Parliament and the opinion of the European Data Protection Supervisor on the proposal.

Coreper agreed at its meeting on 12 September 2007 to invite the Council to examine if the said parliamentary scrutiny reservations can be lifted and to adopt a general approach on the proposal on this basis.

As regards the participation of Ireland in Regulation 1030/02, the Commission has adopted on 7 September 2007 a positive opinion under Article 11a of the Treaty¹. An appropriate Recital will need to be introduced in the draft Regulation to cover this issue when the legal linguist version is established for the purpose of the final adoption.

¹ 12775/07 VISA 276 COMIX 782. It is indicated under point II.2 of the Opinion that the Commission intends to take a positive decision on the participation of Ireland.

Modified draft
COUNCIL REGULATION¹

**amending Regulation (EC) 1030/2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for
third-country nationals**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular
Article 63 (3)a) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission²,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas:

- (1) The Amsterdam Treaty aims to establish progressively an area of freedom, security and justice and confers the right of initiative to the Commission in order to take the relevant measures on a harmonised immigration policy.
- (2) It is essential that the uniform format for residence permits should contain all the necessary information and meet very high technical standards, in particular as regards safeguards against counterfeiting and falsification; this will contribute to the objective of preventing and fighting against illegal immigration and illegal residence. It must also be suited to use by all the Member States.

¹ **UK and NL:** parliamentary reservation.

² OJ C , , p. .

- (3) The integration of biometric identifiers is an important step towards the use of new elements, which establish a more reliable link between the holder and the residence permit as an important contribution to ensuring that it is protected against fraudulent use. The specifications set out in the ICAO document No 9303 Part 3 on Size 1 and 2 machine readable official documents should be taken into account.
- (3a) Furthermore, the vast majority of Member States apply the principle of one person one document, which enhances security even further. It should be examined whether this principle should be rendered mandatory.
- (3b) At its meeting in Thessaloniki on 19 and 20 June 2003 the European Council stressed that a coherent approach was needed in the EU on biometric identifiers or biometric data, which would result in harmonised solutions for documents for third country nationals, EU citizens' passports and information systems.
- (4) The use of new technologies such as e-government and digital signature for access to e-services should be facilitated by giving Member States the possibility to use the storage medium used for the incorporation of biometric identifiers or an additional storage medium for that purpose in residence permits.
- (4a) The purpose of this Regulation is solely to set the security features and biometric identifiers to be used by the Member States in a uniform format of residence permit for third-country nationals.
- (5) This Regulation only lays down such specifications that are not secret; these specifications need to be supplemented by further specifications which may remain secret in order to prevent counterfeiting and falsifications and which may not include personal data or references to such data. Powers to adopt such supplementary specifications should be conferred to the Commission, who shall be assisted by the Committee established by Article 6 of Council Regulation (EC) n°1683/95 of 29 May 1995 laying down a uniform format for visas¹.

¹ OJ L 164, 14.7.1995, p. 1.

- (6) With regard to the personal data to be processed in the context of the uniform format for residence permits, Directive 95/46/EC¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24.10.1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data applies, it must be ensured that no further information shall be stored on the uniform format for residence permits unless provided for in the regulation, its annex or unless it is mentioned in the relevant travel document.
- (7) In accordance with the principle of proportionality, it is necessary and appropriate for the achievement of the basic objective of introducing biometric identifiers in interoperable formats to lay down rules for all Member States implementing the Schengen Convention. This Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve the objectives pursued in accordance with the third paragraph of Article 5 of the Treaty.
- (8) 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 participating in the adoption of this Regulation, and is therefore not bound by it or subject to its application. Given that this Regulation aims to build upon the Schengen *acquis* under the provisions of Title IV of Part three of the Treaty establishing the European Community, Denmark will, in accordance with Article 5 of the said Protocol, decide within a period of six months after the Council has adopted this Regulation, whether it will transpose it into its national law.
- (9) As regards Iceland and Norway, this Regulation 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 C of Council Decision 1999/437/EC of 17 May 1999 on certain arrangements for the application of that Agreement².

¹ OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31.

² OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 31.

- (10) In accordance with Article 3 of the Protocol on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Community, the United Kingdom gave notice, by letter of 29 December 2003, of its wish to take part in the adoption and application of this Regulation.
- (11) As regards Switzerland, this Regulation constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning of the Agreement signed by the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the latter's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis* which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point C of Council Decision 1999/437/EC of 17 May 1999 read in conjunction with Article 4 (1) of the Council decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Community, and on the provisional application of certain provisions of this Agreement.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 is hereby amended as follows:

- (1) In Article 1 (1), the second sentence is replaced by the following:

"Residence permits to third-country nationals shall be issued as a stand-alone document in ID 1 or ID 2 format".

(2) Article 1 (2) (a)(ii) reads as follows:

"Permits issued pending examination of a request for asylum, an application for a residence permit or an application for its extension."

(3) The following Article 1 (2) (a)(ii bis) is added:

"Permits issued in exceptional circumstances in view of a prolongation of the authorised stay with a maximum duration of 1 month".

(4) Article 2 (1), the following points d), e)and f) are added:

- "d) technical specifications for the storage medium of the biometric features and the security thereof, including prevention of unauthorised access;
- e) requirements for the quality of and common standards for the facial image and the fingerprint images.
- f) an exhaustive list of additional national security features which could be added by Member States in accordance with point (h) of the Annex."

(5) In Article 3, the first paragraph is replaced by the following:

"In accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 7 (2), it may be decided that the specifications referred to in Article 2 shall be secret and not be published. In that case they shall be made available only to the bodies designated by the Member States as responsible for the printing and to persons duly authorised by a Member State or the Commission."

(6) In Article 4, the second paragraph is replaced by the following:

"No information in machine-readable form shall be included on the resident permit or on the storage medium of the residence permit referred to in Article 4a, unless provided for in this Regulation, or its Annex or unless it is mentioned in the related travel document by the issuing State in accordance with its national legislation. Member States may also store data for e-services such as e-government and e-business as well as additional provisions relating to the residence permit on a chip referred to in point 16 of the Annex. However, all national data must be logically separated from the biometric data referred to in Article 4a."

For the purposes of this Regulation, the biometric features in residence permits shall only be used for verifying

- (a) the authenticity of the document;
- (b) the identity of the holder by means of directly available comparable features when the residence permit is required to be produced by national legislation."

(7) The following Article 4a is inserted:

"Article 4a

"The uniform format for residence permits shall include a storage medium containing the facial image and two fingerprints images of the holder, both in interoperable formats. The data shall be secured and the storage medium shall be of sufficient capacity and capability to guarantee the integrity, the authenticity and the confidentiality of the data."

(8) The following Article 4b is inserted:

"Article 4b

"For the purposes of this regulation, Member States shall take biometric identifiers comprising the facial image and two fingerprints from third-country nationals.

The procedure shall be determined in accordance with the national practice of the Member State concerned and with the safeguards laid down in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child."

The following biometric identifiers shall be taken:

- a photograph provided by the applicant or taken at the time of application and
- two fingerprints taken flat and digitally captured.

The technical specifications for the capture of biometric identifiers shall be set in accordance with the procedure described in Article 7(2) and with ICAO standards and the technical requirements for passports issued by Member States to their nationals pursuant to Regulation 2252/2004.

The capture of fingerprints is compulsory as of six years of age.

Persons for whom fingerprinting is physically impossible shall be exempt from the requirement to give fingerprints."

(9) The following Article 5a is inserted:

"Article 5a

Where Member States use the uniform format for purposes other than those covered by this Regulation, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that confusion with the residence permit referred to in Article 1 is not possible and the purpose is clearly indicated on the card."

(10) In Article 9, the third paragraph is replaced by the following:

"The storage of the facial image as primary biometric identifier shall be implemented at the latest two years, and the storage of the two fingerprint images at the latest three years after the adoption of the respective technical measures provided for in Article 2 (1) d) and e).

However, the validity of residence permits already issued shall not be affected by the implementation of the current regulation, unless the Member State concerned decides otherwise.

For a transitional period of two years after the adoption of the first technical specifications for facial image referred to in the third paragraph of Article 9 the residence permit may continue to be issued in sticker form."

(11) The Annex is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

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

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

The Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 is amended as follows:

1. Point (a) "Description" is amended as follows:

(1) The first paragraph is replaced by the following;

"a) Description

The residence permit including biometrics will be produced as a stand-alone document in ID 1 or ID 2 format. It will draw on the specifications set out in the ICAO documents on machine-readable visas (document 9303, part 2) or on machine-readable travel documents (cards) (document 9303, part 3). The residence permit in sticker form may only be issued until two years after the adoption of the technical specifications referred to in the third paragraph of Article 9. It will contain the following entries:....."

(2) In point 2, the last part of the sentence "and preceded by an identification letter" is deleted.

(3) The second sentence of 6.4 shall read as follows:

" The residence permit of a member of the family of a citizen of the European Union who has not exercised the right of free movement must contain the entry "family member". In the case of beneficiaries according to Article 3(2) of Directive 2004/38, Member States may entry "beneficiary according to Article 3(2) of Directive 2004/38".

(4) After point 8 the following point is inserted:

"8.a:

The document title referred to in number 1 may also be repeated along the bottom of the card in a further two languages. The headings referred to in numbers 2 to 8 should be indicated in the issuing Member State's language(s). The issuing Member State may add another official language of the institutions of the EC, either in the same line or below each other, with a total of no more than two languages."

(5) point 11 shall read as follows:

"11. The machine –readable area will contain a printed text in the background printing indicating exclusively the Member State concerned. This text may not affect the technical features of the machine-readable area.

(6) The following new point 16 is added:

"16. A RF chip shall be used as a storage medium in accordance with Article 4a. Member States may store data on this chip or incorporate in the residence permit a dual interface or a separate contact chip for national use which shall be placed at the back of the card complying with ISO standards and shall in no way interfere with the RF chip."

(7) The following new point 17 is added:

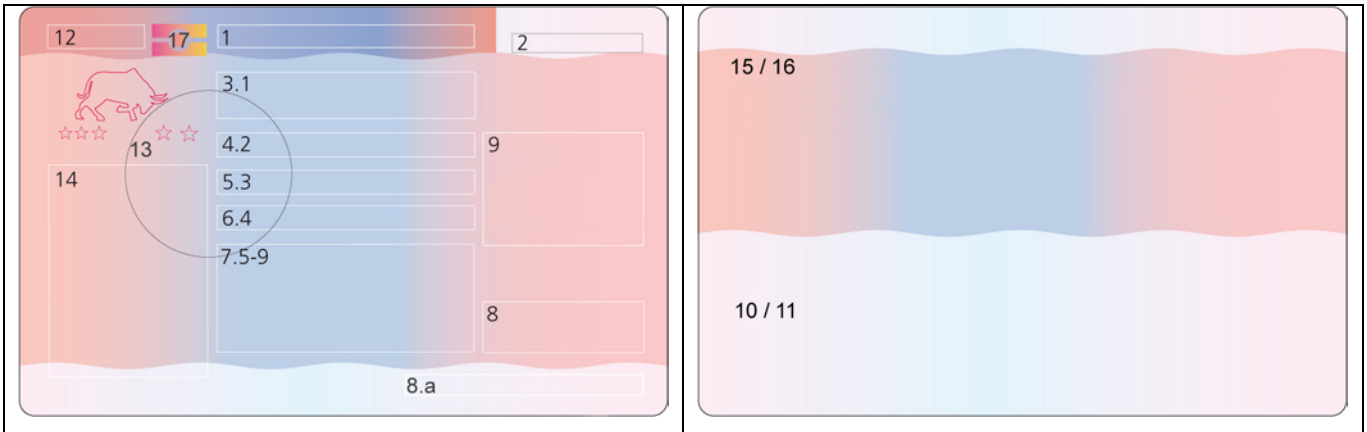
"17. ICAO symbol for a machine readable travel document with contactless microchip (e-MRTD)."

(8) A new point (h) is added after point (g):

"(h) Member States may also add additional national security features, provided that these are included in the list established under Article 2(1)(f) of this Regulation and provided that they comply with the harmonised appearance of the following models and that the efficiency of the uniform security features is not diminished."

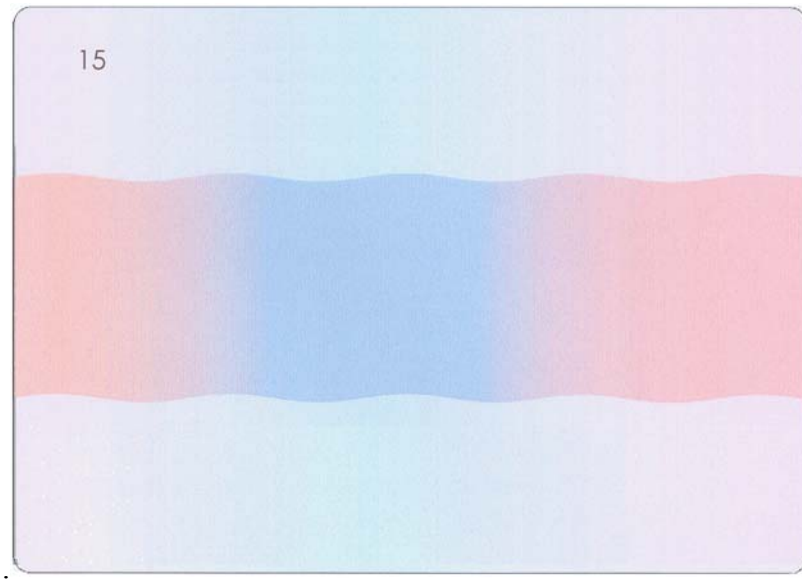
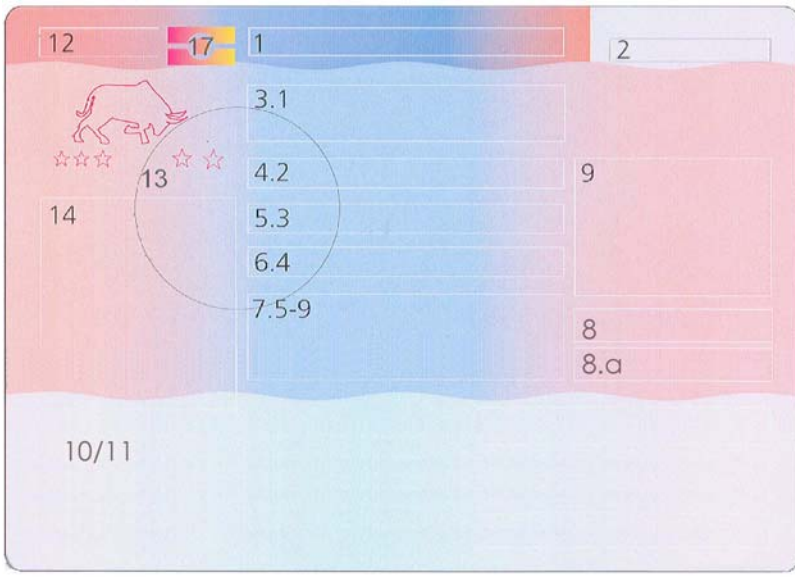
2. The following model is to be inserted:

"Residence permit for third-country nationals including biometrics in ID 1 format"



3. The following model is to be inserted:

"Residence permit for third-country nationals including biometrics in ID 2 format"



Statement to be published in the Official Journal when the Regulation is published:

"Ad Article 1(2) and (3):

The Council invites the Commission to examine the most appropriate and proportionate way of introducing harmonised security features of the residence permits referred to in Article 1 (2) (a) (ii) and (ii bis)."

Statement to be published in the Minutes of the Council:

"Ad Article 1 (9):

Member States declare that for the purpose of issuing residence cards to family members of EU citizens in accordance with Article 10 of Directive 2004/38, they will use the uniform format for residence permits, including biometrics, in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1030/2002 as amended by Regulation [*the present Regulation*] replacing the title by "Residence card of a family member of a Union citizen". Member States invite the Committee, referred to in Article 7(2) of Regulation 1030/2002, to examine technical solutions with the purpose of distinguishing the residence card of a family member of a Union citizen."

"Report on the principle one person one document:

The Council invites the Commission to report by the end of 2008 at the latest on the impact of rendering mandatory the application of the principle one person one document regarding residence permits to third country nationals taking into account national legislation and especially on issuing residence permits to minors, and, if needed, to submit any appropriate proposals."