



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LIMITE

VISA 137

COMIX 482

NOTE

from: Presidency

to: Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum/Mixed Committee
(EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)

Subject: VIS - state of play

At its meeting on 9 and 10 June 2011, the Mixed Committee at Ministerial Level took note of the information from the Presidency and the Commission that the VIS remained on schedule with a view to the VIS going live on 11 October 2011 regarding the first region of deployment (North Africa).

The Friends of the VIS group (FoVIS) met for the last time during the Hungarian Presidency on 20 June 2011. FoVIS took note of progress made regarding the central system and preparations at national level. FoVIS also had a first exchange of views regarding the further consular roll-out beyond the regions already determined in Commission Decision 2010/49/EC.

FoVIS met for the first time under the Polish Presidency on 14 July 2011. The Presidency outlined its priorities, including in particular the completion of all necessary procedures for the purpose of the VIS going live on 11 October 2011 for the first region, and preparations for the subsequent deployment of the VIS in other regions.

Regarding the central system, some difficulties had been experienced concerning the so-called SOAK test, and contractual penalties had been imposed on the contractor. However, the Commission stated that the SOAK test would be re-executed in a way which would have no impact on the planned date for start of operations.

Five Member States had given their notifications of readiness regarding their national VIS and their consulates in the first region. Seven others had indicated they would give their notifications in July. However, several had not given any information, and some Member States still needed to install hardware and software at their consulates. The Presidency and the Commission reminded delegations that it is necessary that all Member States send their notifications by July 2011 in order to allow the Commission to take the decision determining the date of start of operations for the purpose of the VIS going live on 11 October 2011.

Regarding preparations at borders, the information available showed that Member States generally were on schedule.

The Presidency will, as a matter of priority, continue to monitor the preparations for the VIS go-live at all levels.

The FoVIS will meet again on 13 September 2011.
