



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 3 October 2012**

**14505/12**

**LIMITE**

**VISA 186**

**COMIX 542**

**NOTE**

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from: Presidency

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

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Subject: VIS - state of play

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The Visa Information System (VIS) was successfully launched on 11 October 2011 in the first region of deployment (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia).

At its meeting on 8 February 2012, the Mixed Committee at the level of the Permanent Representatives took note of the time schedule regarding the roll-out of the VIS in the second and third regions on the basis of doc. 6028/12. The VIS was launched as scheduled on 10 May 2012 in the second region (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria) and on 2 October 2012 in the third region (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen).

The Friends of the VIS (FovIS) at its meeting on 18 July 2012, endorsed the time schedule regarding the roll-out of the VIS in the fourth to eleventh regions (West, Central, East and South Africa, South America, Central and South-East Asia and the occupied Palestinian Territory, see further doc. 13510/12). According to that schedule region 11 will be rolled out by November 2013.

The priority of the Presidency is now to look further at the determination of the third and last set of regions for the consular roll-out of the VIS in order to facilitate the preparation and the adoption by the Commission of its third and final decision. This Decision will therefore cover all remaining regions and third countries, including China, India and Russia.

FoVIS discussed the last set of regions at its meetings on 18 July and on 12 September 2012 on the basis of suggestions put forward by the Commission services. No consensus, however, could be found on the determination of the sequence of the regions to be covered.

The Presidency proposes to refer the matter to the Visa Working Party for further consideration in the first instance and will report back to SCIFA.

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