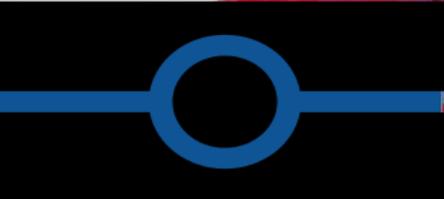




European
Commission

UPDATE ON NEW LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES- EUROPEAN COMMISSION



DG HOME

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Home Affairs

Agenda

● New EU legislation regarding documents

- ID cards
- Emergency Travel documents
- Amendments to the Visa Code
- New EBCG Regulation

● Implementation

- Visa
- Residence permits

● Digital Visa

- Study



Introduction

- ▶ Tackling the phenomenon of travel document fraud remains a priority for all States and the **Commission underlined the crucial importance of travel document security** as an key factor in better border protection and migration management and the move towards an effective and genuine Security Union.
- ▶ **New legislative proposals** to enhance the security of ID cards and Emergency Travel Documents have been put forward in line with this approach.

ID cards and residence documents

The Regulation was just **adopted by the Council** last week on **6 June 2019**. It provides for

- **Minimum security standards** in accordance with ICAO DOC 9303 and the uniform format for residence permits; Member States are free to add security features;
- An **integrated chip** with the facial image and 2 fingerprints mandatorily;
- No harmonised lay-out but a **European symbol**, a two-letter country code of the issuing Member State encircled by 12 yellow stars and printed in negative in a blue rectangle;
- A minimum period of **validity** of 5 years and maximum 10 years, with a few exceptions.

ID cards and residence documents

- ▶ **Residence documents for EU nationals** (not necessarily in card form) living in another Member State than their own have to indicate **minimum information**, such as the title in at least two languages, reference to Union citizenship, document number, name, date of birth, issuing authority and the European symbol.
- ▶ **Residence cards** issued to non-EU family members of mobile EU citizens shall be issued in the **format of the residence permit** according to Regulation (EC) 1030/2002.
- ▶ The **phasing out** of existing ID cards is set to 5 years after the date of application of the Regulation (2 years after entry into force) if they are not ICAO compliant and 10 years for compliant cards. For residence cards 2 and 5 years apply respectively.

EU Emergency travel document

- The current **EU ETD** dates from 1996 and needed to be modernised.
- The Commission proposal for a **Directive** on a new ETD is agreed and is planned to be adopted still this month.
- It provides for a **new document consisting of a uniform threefold form and a sticker**, similar to the current visa sticker, to be affixed on it.
- It shall be issued to **EU citizens who have lost their documents** in a foreign country. It can also be used for own citizens within the EU.
- The **technical specifications** are to be set out by the Article 6 committee.

Amendments to the Visa Code

- ▶ It will improve conditions for legitimate travellers, as well as increase the tools available to respond to the challenges posed by illegal migration.
- ▶ The new rules will provide faster and clearer procedures for legitimate travellers, in particular by:
 - ▶ • **allowing for applications to be lodged up to 6 months, and no later than 15 days, before the trip;**
 - ▶ • **providing for the possibility of the application form to be filled in and signed electronically;**
 - ▶ • **introducing a harmonised approach to the issuing of multiple entry visas to regular travellers with a positive visa history for a period which increases gradually from 1 to 5 years.**

Amendments to the Visa Code

- ▶ **Covering costs of processing**
 - ▶ **To ensure member states can better cover the costs of visa processing without constituting a deterrent for visa applicants, the visa fee will be increased to 80 euros.**
 - ▶ **The regulation also introduces a mechanism for reviewing every three years whether the visa fee should change.**
- ▶ **Better cooperation on readmission of irregular migrants**
 - ▶ **The regulation will also contribute to improving cooperation with third countries on readmission by introducing a new mechanism for using visa processing as leverage.**

Amendments to the Visa Code

- ▶ Better cooperation on readmission of irregular migrants
 - ▶ the Commission will regularly assess third countries' cooperation on readmission. Where a country is not cooperating, the Commission will propose that the Council adopt an implementing decision applying specific restrictive visa measures related to visa processing and, eventually, to the visa fee.
 - ▶ On the other hand, if a country is found to be cooperating on readmission, the Commission may propose that the Council adopt an implementing decision providing for either a reduction in the visa fee, a reduction in the time to decide on visa applications, or an increase in the period of validity of multiple entry visas.

New EBCG Regulation

- ▶ The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) is being strengthened in terms of staff and technical equipment. It is also being given a broader mandate to support member states' activities on border protection, return and cooperation with third countries.
 - ▶ **The proposed new rules will incorporate the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR) into the Frontex framework;**
 - ▶ **To ensure coherent management of external borders and to be able to respond to crisis situations, a standing corps will be set up, with up to 10 000 operational staff by 2027;**
 - ▶ **They will allow Frontex to provide technical and operational support to member states in return operations;**
 - ▶ **They will contribute to strengthening cooperation with third countries, by giving the agency wider scope for action and not limiting its possibilities for cooperation to neighbouring countries.**

Implementation of the new visa sticker and the residence permit

- ▶ The technical specifications for the **new uniform format for visas** have been adopted. The deadline for the production of the new visa sticker is the **21 June 2019** and the date for using up the old visa sticker is **21 December 2019**.
- ▶ Some Member States have already issued new visas such as Germany and Austria and unfortunately they were already targeted by forgers.
- ▶ For the **new residence permit**, the electronic data have only be recently distributed so that all Member States are in the phase of preparation.

Study on digital visas

- ▶ COM was asked to explore how technologies provide new opportunities to facilitate visa processing for both applicants and consulates.
- ▶ A **study** was commissioned which looks into the possible options to digitalise the visa application process and the visa sticker.
- ▶ The idea is to check the visa holders data, which are already stored in the **Visa Information System** without a need of an additional sticker.
- ▶ The study will be finished in August this year and COM will decide on taking initiatives in this sense.



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