



**2018/0061(COD)**

4.12.2018

# OPINION

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code)  
(COM(2018)0252 – C8-0114/2018 – 2018/0061(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: István Ujhelyi

PA\_Legam

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

### 1. Introduction

The Commission proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code) seeks to simplify the current procedures for issuing short-stay-visas for the Schengen Agreement area. Many of the results reached in the past discussions in the European Parliament on the Commission's previous Visa package (proposal for recast of Visa Code and proposal for a Touring Visa) are contained in this new proposal.

The proposal shortens and simplifies the procedures for those wanting to come to the EU for short stays, and induce more cost savings and less bureaucracy, whilst striking the right balance between economic and security needs.

Making the access to the Schengen area easier for legitimate travellers will facilitate visiting friends and relatives and doing business. It will boost economic activity and job creation in the tourism sector as well as in related activities such as transport industries. This will help Europe to continue being world's destination number one.

The main achievements of the Visa Code proposal are:

- Reducing the deadline for processing and taking a decision (from 15 to 10 days);
- Making it possible to lodge visa applications in other EU countries consulates if the Member State competent for processing the visa application is neither present nor represented;
- Simplifying application forms and allowing for online applications; Handling the language problem in application process;
- Possibility for Member States to use modern means of communication to interview applicants, rather than requiring them to come to the consulate in person;
- Visas applied for at the external border. In order to promote short-term tourism, a Member State may decide to temporarily allow the lodging of visa applications at a specific land- or sea-border crossing points (maximum 7 days).

Comparing to the proposal we voted in Plenary and even to the original Visa Code there are some outcomes, which are not included into the new Commission proposal. For example, the mandatory issuing of multiple entry visa has been changed to a misinterpreted cascade system. The concept of "touring VISA" and the idea to help the cultural and sport professionals is missing also. All this, does not show a positive approach to the Year of Cultural Heritage. Finally, the mandatory rise of VISA prices is not reasoned and explained.

### 2. The "transport and tourism" dimension of the proposal

*"More flexible visa rules will boost growth and job creation"*

Baring in mind that the primary objective of the Schengen visa system should be to prevent illegal immigration and security threats, making visa application procedure more user friendly is positive for the economy, particularly for the transport and tourism industries.

Based on the figures from the European Commission in its Impact Assessment as well as from various stakeholders, economic impact of making visa rules more flexible will be very significant for the Schengen area (e.g.: study on the economic impact of short stay visa facilitation on the tourism industry and on the overall economies of EU Member States being part of the Schengen Area, EC, DG Enterprise & Industry, August 2013 - Visa facilitation: Stimulating economic growth and development through tourism, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) January 2013 - Contribution of Cruise Tourism to the Economies of Europe 2017, the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) - "WTTC contribution to the Revision of the Visa Code", World Travel and Tourism Council, June 2015).

As stated in the Commission impact assessment, visa-required travellers represent a growing share of all tourist arrivals in the EU and have the strongest growth rates, both in absolute numbers and in terms of expenditure. The number of arrivals of visa-required travellers in accommodations in Schengen countries increased by 175% from 2009 to 2016 (to 37.8 million), while the overall number of arrivals increased by only 38%. Moreover, in absolute numbers, there were approximately 11 million arrivals from China, 6.5 million from Russia, 3.1 million from African countries, and 2.4 million arrivals from Turkey at tourist accommodations in the Schengen area in 2016.

### **3. Your Rapporteur's opinion**

Your Rapporteur supports the aim of simplifying and facilitating visa applications. It will help the visa applicants not to be discouraged by the administrative and economic burdens to enter the Schengen area and will eventually enhance tourism and transport activities in Europe to the benefit of the economy.

We need to develop a stronger mutual understanding between the Schengen area and the third countries: more public awareness, more information campaigns, additional direct flights, etc. I think we may also learn from other visa facilitation systems (USA, Canada and Australia).

Your Rapporteur wishes to introduce some amendments in order to enhance further the user-friendly side of the Commission proposal, around the following main principles:

- Increase the possible period of validity of the multiple entry visa up to 10 years for qualified legitimate travellers in line with other third countries' visa systems.
- Maintain the current Code provision concerning longer validity periods for MEVs instead of the Commission proposed cascade system, which would not serve to increase issuance of MEVs.
- Enable extended stays in the Schengen Area for legitimate travellers while respecting the limits of domestic law.
- Allow applicants to lodge their visa application in another Member State's consulate, when the competent Member State's consulate is at least 500 kilometres away from their residency.
- Apply a percentage of the increased fee for visa applicants to support the joint promotion of the European tourism strategy.
- Incorporate elements agreed in Plenary on the Touring Visa to provide additional safeguards and/or facilitations. This may include, the appointment of the competent

Member State for the issue of the visa where the intended travel involves multiple countries, and the opportunity for certain categories of legitimate travellers to apply nine months before the intended stay.

Concretely, your rapporteur proposes that facilitation procedures should be open to applicants registered in the VIS and who have already obtained and lawfully used two visas within two years prior to their applications, or held a MEV, or a national long stay visa or a residence permit.

## AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Transport and Tourism calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

### Amendment 1

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Recital 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(4) The visa application procedure should be as easy as possible for applicants. It should be clear which Member State is competent for examining an application for a visa in particular where the intended visit covers several Member States. Where possible, Member States should allow for application forms to be completed and submitted electronically. Deadlines should be established for the various steps of the procedure in particular to allow travellers to plan *ahead* and avoid peak seasons in consulates.

*Amendment*

(4) The visa application procedure should be as easy *and at reasonable costs* as possible for applicants. It should be clear which Member State is competent for examining an application for a visa in particular where the intended visit covers several Member States. Member States should allow for application forms to be completed and submitted electronically. Deadlines should be established for the various steps of the procedure in particular to allow travellers to plan *a reasonable time in advance* and avoid peak seasons in consulates. *As part of the further development of the acquis towards a truly common visa policy, procedures and conditions for issuing visas should be further harmonised and their uniform application be reinforced.*

### Amendment 2

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Recital 6

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(6) The visa fee should ensure that sufficient financial resources are available to cover the expenses of visa processing, including appropriate structures and sufficient staff to ensure the quality and integrity of the examination of visa applications. The amount of the visa fee should be revised ***on a two-yearly basis*** on the basis of objective criteria.

*Amendment*

(6) The visa fee should ensure that sufficient financial resources are available to cover the expenses of visa processing, including appropriate structures and sufficient staff to ensure the quality, ***speed*** and integrity of the examination of visa applications. The amount of the visa fee should be revised ***every two years*** on the basis of objective ***assessment*** criteria.

**Amendment 3**

**Proposal for a regulation**  
**Recital 8**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(8) Representation arrangements should be streamlined and obstacles to the conclusion of such arrangements among Member States should be avoided. The representing Member State should be responsible for the entire processing of visa applications without the involvement of the represented Member State.

*Amendment*

(8) Representation arrangements should be streamlined ***and eased*** and obstacles to the conclusion of such arrangements among Member States should be avoided. The representing Member State should be responsible for the entire processing of visa applications without the involvement of the represented Member State.

**Amendment 4**

**Proposal for a regulation**  
**Recital 16**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(16) Flexible rules should be established to allow Member States to optimise the sharing of resources and to increase consular coverage. Cooperation among Member States (Schengen Visa Centres) could take any form suited to local circumstances in order to increase geographical consular coverage, reduce Member States' costs, increase the visibility of the Union and improve the service offered to visa applicants.

*Amendment*

(16) Flexible rules should be established to allow Member States to optimise the sharing of resources and to increase consular coverage. Cooperation among Member States (Schengen Visa Centres) could take any form suited to local circumstances in order to increase geographical consular coverage, reduce Member States' costs, increase the visibility of the Union and improve the service offered to visa applicants. ***The***

*common visa policy should contribute to generating growth and be coherent with other Union policies, such as those concerning external relations, trade, education, culture and tourism.*

## Amendment 5

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 17

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(17) Electronic visa application systems developed by Member States *help* to facilitate application procedures for applicants and consulates. A common solution *allowing* full digitisation should be developed, making full use of the recent legal and technological developments.

*Amendment*

(17) Electronic visa application systems developed by Member States *are essential in order* to facilitate application procedures for applicants and consulates. A common solution *ensuring* full digitisation should be developed *by 2025 in the form of an online platform and an EU E-visa, thereby* making full use of the recent legal and technological developments, *to allow visa application online to accommodate the needs of applicants and attract more visitors to the Schengen area. The electronic visa application system should be fully accessible for the people with disabilities. Straightforward and streamlined procedural guarantees should be strengthened and uniformly applied.*

## Amendment 6

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 1 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. This Regulation establishes the conditions and procedures for issuing visas for intended stays on the territory of the Member States not exceeding 90 days in any 180-days period;

*Amendment*

1. This Regulation establishes the conditions and procedures for issuing visas for intended stays on the territory of the Member States not exceeding 90 days in any 180-days period *on the territory of any single Member State.*

### *Justification*

*The proposed approach facilitates visa procedures for tourists. Applying the “90 days within any 180 day period” restriction within a longer period of validity ensures that visa holders prevents consecutive stays in the territory of a single Member State and maintains the integrity of the distinction between short stays under a Schengen visa and longer stays subject to domestic law.*

### **Amendment 7**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 a (new)**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 1 – paragraph 3 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(1a) In Article 1 the following paragraph is added:***

***3a. The European Commission shall present an electronic visa application, E-visa, by 2025.***

### *Justification*

*The Union needs an online platform for efficient and transparent visa processing and an EU e-visa, avoiding multiple electronic visa application systems developed by Member States by 2025.*

### **Amendment 8**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point d a (new)**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 12 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(da) the following point is added***

***12a. "Sport and Culture Professionals" means third-country nationals who are not citizens of the Union within the meaning of Article 20(1) of the Treaty, and belong to the following categories: performing artists and their support staff,***

*elite sports persons and their support staff.*

*Justification*

*It facilitates the ability to draft specific rules for such a specific group of legitimate travellers.*

**Amendment 9**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 5**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) if the visit includes more than one destination, or if several separate visits are to be carried out within a period of two months, the Member State whose territory constitutes the main destination of the visit(s) in terms of the length of stay, counted in days; or;

*Amendment*

(b) if the visit includes more than one destination, or if several separate visits are to be carried out within a period of two months, the Member State whose territory constitutes the main destination of the visit(s) in terms of the length of stay, counted in days or ***the Member State where the host organisation or employer is established;***

*Justification*

*Where an individual is invited to participate in a project, the competent Member State should be the one where the host organisation or employer is based, as this is the most natural link between the competent Member State and the host organisation or employer inviting the third country national.*

**Amendment 10**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 5 a (new)**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 5 – paragraph 4 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(5a) In Article 5, the following paragraph is added:***

***4a. Where the consulate of the***

*competent Member State is located more than 500km from the applicant's place of residency, the applicant may apply for a visa at another Member State's consulate.*

#### *Justification*

*The proposed change addresses the inconvenience faced by some applicants in very large countries, (e.g. China, India and Russia) who would need to travel 1.000 km or more, or required to stay overnight, to lodge an application in the consulate of the competent Member State. This would render an opportunity of lodging a visa application at another Member State's consulate plausible in order to avoid such an inconvenience. This could have a cost-reduction and compensation affect as an important element of any revision of the visa fee.*

### **Amendment 11**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 7 – point a**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 9 – paragraph 1

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Applications may be lodged no more than six months, and for seafarers in the performance of their duties, no more than nine months before the start of the intended visit and, as a rule, no later than 15 calendar days before that start.

#### *Amendment*

Applications may be lodged no more than six months and, for seafarers, ***professionals in sport or in cultural fields***, in the performance of their duties ***or activities***, no more than nine months before the start of the intended visit and, as a rule, no later than 15 calendar days before that start.

### **Amendment 12**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 10 – point -a (new)**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point b

#### *Present text*

(b) documents in relation to accommodation, or proof of sufficient means to cover ***his*** accommodation;

#### *Amendment*

***(-a) Article 14 paragraph 1 point (b) is replaced by the following;***

***“(b) documents in relation to accommodation, or proof of sufficient means to cover **expenses or confirmation from inbound agent / operator that*****

accommodation **arrangements are being handled ;"**

(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009R0810&from=EN>)

#### *Justification*

*Necessary in order to minimise unexpected documentary requirements that cause delay. Therefore, proof of specific accommodation during application process is often unavailable. For these the traveller should either present proof of accommodation, or proof of sufficient means to cover expenses or confirmation from inbound agent / operator that accommodation arrangements are being handled.*

### **Amendment 13**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 10 – point a**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 14 – paragraph 4 – introductory part

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

4. Member States may require applicants to present a proof of sponsorship **and** private accommodation or **both** by completing **a** form drawn up by each Member State. That form shall indicate in particular:

#### *Amendment*

4. Member States may require applicants to present a proof of sponsorship, private accommodation or **proof of sufficient means to cover expenses, including confirmation from inbound agent that accommodation arrangements are being handled** by completing form drawn up by each Member State. That form shall indicate in particular:

#### *Justification*

*In order to avoid unexpected documentary delay, requirements for supporting documents should be uniform. Tour operators organizing group travel typically cannot make a hotel reservation until the group size is known, that size being dependent on successful number of visa applicants. Therefore, proof of specific accommodation during application process is often unavailable.*

### **Amendment 14**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 10 – point a**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 14 – paragraph 4 – point e

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(e) the address of the accommodation;

(e) the address of the accommodation;  
***if travel is organized by a tour operator proof of sufficient means to cover expenses or confirmation from inbound agent that accommodation arrangements are being handle;***

*Justification*

*In order to avoid unexpected documentary delay, requirements for supporting documents should be uniform. Tour operators organizing group travel typically cannot make a hotel reservation until the group size is known, that size being dependent on successful number of visa applicants. Therefore, proof of specific accommodation during application process is often unavailable*

**Amendment 15**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 12 – point a**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 16 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

1. Applicants shall pay a visa fee of EUR **80**.

1. Applicants shall pay a visa fee of EUR **60**.

**Amendment 16**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 12 – point a**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 16 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

2. Children from the age of six years and below the age of 12 years shall pay a visa fee of EUR **40**.;

2. Children from the age of six years and below the age of 12 years shall pay a visa fee of EUR **35**.;

## Amendment 17

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 12 – point d a (new)

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 16 – paragraph 4 – point d

*Present text*

(d) representatives of non-profit organisations aged 25 years or less participating in seminars, conferences, sports, cultural or educational events organised by non-profit organisations.

*Amendment*

***(da) in paragraph 4, point (d) is replaced by the following:***

***“(d) representatives of non-profit organisations aged 35 years or less participating in seminars, conferences, sports, cultural or educational events organised by non-profit organisations.”***

*Justification*

*It is proposed to enlarge the age category for mandatory visa fee waivers by Member States, making these available to representatives of non-profit organisations aged 35 years or less participating in seminars, conferences, sports, cultural or educational events organised by non-profit organisations. Under the current provision, the age category benefiting from mandatory visa fee waivers by Member States is 25 years or less. The proposed amendment creates more and equal opportunities for young people, including in relation to mobility, education, sports, and cultural exchange.*

## Amendment 18

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 12 – point e a (new)

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 16 – paragraph 7 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(ea) In Article 16, the following paragraph is inserted:***

***7a. A percentage of the funds raised through the visa fee should be allocated to support the joint tourism promotion strategy;***

*Justification*

*There are many existing models in the world where some part of the VISA fee is transferred*

for joint promotion strategy of the issuing countries and regions. For example, USA use this tool. This proposal will help Europe to continue being the world's number one tourist destination.

## **Amendment 19**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 14 – point c**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 21 – paragraph 8

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

8. During the examination of an application, consulates may in justified cases carry out an interview with the applicant and request additional documents.

#### *Amendment*

8. During the examination of an application, consulates may in justified cases carry out an interview with the applicant and request additional documents. ***These interviews may be conducted using modern digital tools and remote means of communication, such as voice or video calls via internet. Fundamental rights of applicants shall be guaranteed during the process.***

## **Amendment 20**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 16 – point a**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 23 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

Applications shall be decided within **10** calendar days of the date of the lodging of an application which is admissible in accordance with Article 19.

#### *Amendment*

Applications shall be decided within **7** calendar days of the date of the lodging of an application which is admissible in accordance with Article 19.

## **Amendment 21**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 16 – point a**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 23 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

That period may be extended up to a maximum of **45** calendar days in individual cases, notably when further scrutiny of the application is needed.;

That period may be extended up to a maximum of **30** calendar days in individual cases, notably when further scrutiny of the application is needed.;

**Amendment 22**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 17 – point a – point i**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 24 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2 – first sentence

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

A visa may be issued for one or multiple entries.

A visa may be issued for one or multiple entries. ***The period of validity of the visa shall not exceed 10 years.***

*Justification*

*Raising the maximum period of validity of visas from five to ten years aligns with existing models around the world, including the USA and Canada. Stays for Schengen visa holders will continue to be limited under the proposed rules to 90 days within 180 days in any single Member State. Extending the maximum from five to ten years eliminates bureaucracy for both Member States and trusted legitimate travellers.*

**Amendment 23**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 17 – point b**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 24 – paragraph 2 – point a

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(a) for a validity period of one year, provided that the applicant has obtained and lawfully used **three** visas within the previous two years;

(a) for a validity period of one year, provided that the applicant has obtained and lawfully used **two** visas within the previous two years;

*Justification*

*In the current 2010 Visa Code, no cascade approach exists and there is recognition of the specificities of seafarers - through the issuing of mandatory MEVs where they prove the need*

*to travel frequently and prove their integrity and reliability. Under this proposal, such recognition is removed and if seafarers do not meet the requirements under the cascade system, they will only be entitled to MEVs on an optional basis. This puts them in a weaker legal position than under the current 2010 code.*

## **Amendment 24**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 17 – point c**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 24 – paragraph 2c

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2c. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, a multiple entry visa valid for up to five years may be issued to applicants who prove the need or justify their intention to travel frequently and/or regularly provided that they prove their integrity and reliability, in particular the lawful use of previous visas, their economic situation in the country of origin and their genuine intention to leave the territory of the Member States before the expiry of the visa for which they have applied.

#### *Amendment*

2c. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, a multiple entry visa valid for up to five years may be issued to applicants who prove the need or justify their intention to travel frequently and/or regularly, ***such as seafarers, sports and culture professionals***, provided that they prove their integrity and reliability, in particular the lawful use of previous visas, their economic situation in the country of origin and their genuine intention to leave the territory of the Member States before the expiry of the visa for which they have applied.

#### *Justification*

*It is important that seafarers sports and culture professionals have special rules in recognition of their specific circumstances*

## **Amendment 25**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 18**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 25a – paragraph 5

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

5. Where, on the basis of the analysis referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4, the Commission decides that a country is not

#### *Amendment*

5. Where, on the basis of the analysis referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4, the Commission decides that a country is not

cooperating sufficiently, and that action is therefore needed, it may, taking also account of the Union's overall relations with the third country concerned, adopt an implementing act, in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 52(2):

cooperating sufficiently, and that action is therefore needed, it may, taking also account of the Union's overall relations with the third country concerned ***and the importance of allowing certain categories of professional travellers such as seafarers and sports and culture professionals to continue to benefit from the rules of visa code***, adopt an implementing act, in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 52(2):

#### *Justification*

*It is important that seafarers sports and culture professionals have special rules in recognition of their specific circumstances*

### **Amendment 26**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 24**

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 36a – paragraph 2

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The duration of the scheme shall be limited to ***four*** months in any calendar year and the categories of beneficiary shall be clearly defined and exclude third-country nationals falling within the category of persons for whom prior consultation is required in accordance with Article 22 and persons not residing in the country adjacent to the land-border crossing point or in a country having direct ferry connections to the sea-border crossing point. Those schemes shall only apply to nationals of third countries with which readmission agreements have been concluded and for which the Commission has not taken a decision in accordance with Article 25a(5).

#### *Amendment*

2. The duration of the scheme shall be limited to ***five*** months in any calendar year and the categories of beneficiary shall be clearly defined and exclude third-country nationals falling within the category of persons for whom prior consultation is required in accordance with Article 22 and persons not residing in the country adjacent to the land-border crossing point or in a country having direct ferry connections to the sea-border crossing point. Those schemes shall only apply to nationals of third countries with which readmission agreements have been concluded and for which the Commission has not taken a decision in accordance with Article 25a(5).

#### *Justification*

*Maintain the former proposal giving more flexibility for Member States.*

## Amendment 27

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 24

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 36a – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. The Member State concerned shall establish appropriate structures and deploy specially trained staff for the processing of visa applications and the carrying out of all verifications and risk assessment, as set out in Article 21.

*Amendment*

3. The Member State concerned shall establish appropriate structures and deploy specially trained staff for the processing of visa applications and the carrying out of all verifications and risk assessment, as set out in Article 21. **Staff shall receive training on digital file management.**

*Justification*

*To ensure smooth and quality service for applicants, Member States should ensure training on digital management for its staff.*

## Amendment 28

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 24

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Article 36a – paragraph 6 – subparagraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Member States shall notify the Commission of any schemes at the latest **six** months before the start of their implementation. The notification shall specify the categories of beneficiary, the geographical scope, the organisational arrangements for the scheme and the measures envisaged to ensure compliance with the conditions set out in this Article.

*Amendment*

Member States shall notify the Commission of any schemes at the latest **three** months before the start of their implementation. The notification shall specify the categories of beneficiary, the geographical scope, the organisational arrangements for the scheme and the measures envisaged to ensure compliance with the conditions set out in this Article.

*Justification*

*Maintain the former proposal giving more flexibility for Member States.*

## Amendment 29

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 37 a (new)

Regulation (EC) No 810/2009

Annex II – Part A – point 3 a

*Present text*

*Amendment*

(a) documents relating to accommodation:

***(37a) Annex II, Part A point 3(a), is replaced by the following:***

***"(a) documents relating to accommodation, or proof of sufficient means to cover expenses or confirmation from inbound agent / operator that accommodation arrangements are being handled."***

*(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009R0810&from=EN>)*

*Justification*

*The traveller either should present proof of accommodation, or proof of sufficient means to cover expenses or confirmation from inbound agent / operator that accommodation arrangements are being handled.*

## PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Title</b>	Establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code)		
<b>References</b>	COM(2018)0252 – C8-0114/2018 – 2018/0061(COD)		
<b>Committee responsible</b> Date announced in plenary	LIBE 16.4.2018		
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	TRAN 16.4.2018		
<b>Rapporteur</b> Date appointed	István Ujhelyi 1.6.2018		
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	6.9.2018	8.10.2018	21.11.2018
<b>Date adopted</b>	3.12.2018		
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: –: 0:	26 7 0	
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Daniela Aiuto, Lucy Anderson, Georges Bach, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Deirdre Clune, Michael Cramer, Andor Deli, Isabella De Monte, Ismail Ertug, Tania González Peñas, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Merja Kyllönen, Innocenzo Leontini, Peter Lundgren, Gesine Meissner, Renaud Muselier, Markus Pieper, Gabriele Preuß, Christine Revault d'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Dominique Riquet, Massimiliano Salini, Keith Taylor, István Ujhelyi, Marita Ulvskog, Peter van Dalen, Wim van de Camp, Marie-Pierre Vieu, Janusz Zemke, Kosma Złotowski		
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Jakop Dalunde, Mark Demesmaeker, Evžen Tošenovský		
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Lieve Wierinck		

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

26	+
ALDE	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Gesine Meissner, Dominique Riquet, Lieve Wierinck
ECR	Mark Demesmaeker
EFDD	Daniela Aiuto
PPE	Georges Bach, Wim van de Camp, Deirdre Clune, Andor Deli, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Innocenzo Leontini, Renaud Muselier, Markus Pieper, Massimiliano Salini
S&D	Lucy Anderson, Isabella De Monte, Ismail Ertug, Gabriele Preuß, Christine Revault d'Allonnes Bonnefoy, István Ujhelyi, Marita Ulvskog, Janusz Zemke
VERTS/ALE	Michael Cramer, Jakop Dalunde, Keith Taylor

7	-
ECR	Peter van Dalen, Peter Lundgren, Evžen Tošenovský, Kosma Złotowski
GUE/NGL	Tania González Peñas, Merja Kyllönen, Marie-Pierre Vieu

0	0

**Key to symbols:**

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention