

Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure	1998/0914(CNS)
Procedure lapsed or withdrawn	
Visas: uniform format for forms to persons holding travel document not recognised or no travel documents	
Subject 7.10.04 External borders crossing and controls, visas	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs		24/09/1998
		PPE LEHNE Klaus-Heiner	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		23/06/1998
		V ULLMANN Wolfgang	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2146	03/12/1998

Key events			
16/07/1998	Legislative proposal published	10224/1998	Summary
18/09/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/10/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
27/10/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0408/1998	
19/11/1998	Debate in Parliament		
20/11/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0695/1998	Summary
03/12/1998	Debate in Council	2146	
01/05/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/0914(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation

Legal basis	Treaty on the European Union (after Amsterdam) M K.3-p2b
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		10224/1998	16/07/1998	CSL	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0408/1998 OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0005	27/10/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0695/1998 OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0371-0386	20/11/1998	EP	Summary

Visas: uniform format for forms to persons holding travel document not recognised or no travel documents

OBJECTIVE: Joint action on establishment of a uniform format for forms for affixing visas. SUBSTANCE: The draft joint action (TEU Article K.3) aims to harmonise the format of forms for affixing visas issued by the Member States - to persons holding travel documents which are not recognised by the Member State drawing up the form or - to persons holding no travel documents. These two standard formats (an example of which is annexed to the draft joint action) must contain all the information required and meet a high level of technical standards to prevent counterfeiting or falsification. They should be suitable for use by all the Member States and bear universally recognisable security features which are visible to the naked eye. The draft joint action only lays down specifications which are not secret. These specifications must be supplemented by other secret specifications (to prevent counterfeiting) which may not include personal data. These additional specifications will be established by the Council at a later date. To ensure that the information in question will not be divulged to unauthorised persons, each Member State must designate a single body to be responsible for printing the forms while retaining the option to change the appointed body if necessary. The draft joint action provides that the same body could be designated by two or more Member States. ?

Visas: uniform format for forms to persons holding travel document not recognised or no travel documents

In adopting the report by Mr Klaus-Heiner LEHNE (PPE, D) on the uniform format for forms for affixing visas, Parliament took the view that the proposal ought to be based on Article 100c(3) of the Treaty (first pillar, qualified majority in the Council, consultation of Parliament) rather than Article K.3 (third pillar), as the harmonisation of uniform visa formats was based on Article 100. In Parliament's opinion, there was a parallel between the harmonisation of visas and the harmonisation of forms for affixing visas. Assigning the proposal for a Directive (rather than a joint action) to the first pillar, it entrusted the Commission with responsibility for laying down the technical specifications for the entry of particulars in visa forms and all the provisions previously entrusted to the Council. Parliament called for information relating to counterfeited or falsified visa formats to be exchanged immediately between the appropriate national authorities. Counterfeiting or falsifying such formats should be punishable according to national laws. Parliament called for the Member States to apply the proposal for a Directive one year after its entry into force.?