

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	2000/0806(CNS)	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Third-country nationals exempt from visa: period of free travelling within the Member states. Initiative Portugal		
Subject 7.10 Free movement and integration of third-country nationals		

Key players		
European Parliament		
Council of the European Union		
European Commission		
	Commission DG Justice and Consumers	Commissioner

Key events			
04/06/2000	Legislative proposal published	08210/2000	Summary
16/06/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/02/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
26/02/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0075/2001	
13/03/2001	Debate in Parliament		
13/03/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0126/2001	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/0806(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 062-p3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	LIBE/5/12831

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		08210/2000	05/06/2000	CSL	Summary

Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0075/2001	27/02/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0126/2001 OJ C 343 05.12.2001, p. 0023-0091	13/03/2001	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Third-country nationals exempt from visa: period of free travelling within the Member states. Initiative Portugal

PURPOSE: adoption of a Council Regulation on the period during which third country nationals exempt from visa requirements are free to travel within the territory of the Member States. CONTENT: This proposal, put forward on the initiative of Portugal, sets out the conditions under which nationals of third countries are to have the freedom to travel within the territory of the Member States during a period of no more than three months. Provision is made for measures enabling a further three-month period to be granted, on a reciprocal basis, for nationals of countries exempt from visa requirements for the purposes of crossing the external borders of the Member States. In order to benefit from this right, the following conditions must be fulfilled: - they possess a valid document or documents authorising them to cross the border of the Member State; - they produce, if necessary, documents establishing the purpose and conditions of the intended stay and they have sufficient means of subsistence, both for the period of the intended stay and for the return to their country of origin or transit to a third country into which they are certain to be admitted, or are in a positions to acquire such means lawfully; - they are not persons for whom an alert has been issued for the purposes of refusing entry; - they are not considered to be a threat to the public policy, national security or international relations of any of the member States. International agreements may be negotiated, on a reciprocal basis, between the Community and third countries whose nationals do not require visas, in order to determine the conditions under which a second period of not more than three months may be granted, for nationals of those countries, during the twelve months following the date on which they first crossed the external border of a Member State, where appropriate within the six-month period mentioned above. The Regulation shall apply to those Member States which have signed protocols of accession to the Schengen agreements as from the dates set by the Council, acting unanimously among its members referred to in Art 1 of the Protocol to the integrating the Schengen acquis into the framework of the European Union, unless the conditions for the accession of any of those States to the Schengen acquis are fulfilled before the date of entry into force of this Regulation.?

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The committee adopted the report by Pernille FRAHM (EUL/NGL, D) rejecting the Portuguese initiative under the consultation procedure. The committee was concerned that the adoption of the initiative could create a lack of coherence in the rules enabling third-country nationals to travel within the Schengen Member States. As it applied only to third country nationals who were exempt from a visa requirement, it covered only one of the three categories covered by Schengen. The committee was also concerned that the initiative could introduce a substantial derogation from the relevant Treaty provision, Article 62(3), in that it would permit an extension of the three-month period. Article 62(3) did not provide for the possibility of such a derogation, and the committee felt that this part of the initiative should have a different legal base. It concluded, however, that the initiative did not provide any added value and that it was not worth trying to correct all the problems raised by it. As the Commission intended to propose measures in April 2001 on the freedom to travel within the territory of the Member States, the committee proposed to reject the Portuguese initiative and wait for the Commission to present its proposal. ?

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The European Parliament voted to reject the Portuguese initiative (following the advice from Mrs Pernille FRAHM (EUL/ NGL, DK) concerning the period during which third country nationals who are exempt from visa requirements can travel freely within the territory of Schengen Member States.?