

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Directive	2001/0155(CNS)	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Third-country nationals: freedom to travel for 3 months, free entry and movement for 6 months		
Subject 7.10 Free movement and integration of third-country nationals 7.10.02 Schengen area, Schengen acquis		

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

Key events			
09/07/2001	Legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0388	Summary
03/09/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/12/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
17/12/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0455/2001	
04/02/2002	Debate in Parliament		
05/02/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0031/2002	Summary
17/03/2006	Additional information		Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/0155(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 062; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 063
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	LIBE/5/14977

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2001)0388 OJ C 270 25.09.2001, p. 0244 E	10/07/2001	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0455/2001	18/12/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0031/2002 OJ C 284 21.11.2002, p. 0024-0105 E	05/02/2002	EP	Summary

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Third-country nationals: freedom to travel for 3 months, free entry and movement for 6 months

PURPOSE: to present a Commission proposal for a Council Directive relating to the conditions in which third-country nationals shall have the freedom to travel in the territory of the Member States for periods not exceeding three months, introducing a specific travel authorisation and determining the conditions of entry and movement for periods not exceeding six months. **CONTENT:** The Commission considers that the various provisions in force on the movement of third-country nationals in the territory of the Member States need an overall approach to establish general consistency and guarantee that the requirements for the various categories of third-country nationals are interpreted in the same way. Against the background of the Schengen Area and the Amsterdam Treaty, the Commission believes that the conditions must be created in which third-country nationals shall travel freely in the territory of the Member States for periods of no more than three months. To this end, the Commission proposes the following measures: - determine the conditions to be met for the freedom to travel for a period of no more than three months in any six-month period for third-country nationals who are lawfully in the territory of a Member State and are: subject to visa requirement; exempted from the visa requirement; in possession of a residence permit issued by a Member State; in possession of long-stay visa issued by a Member State pending the issue of a residence permit; - to introduce a specific travel authorisation for third-country nationals planning to move in the territory of the Member States for a period of no more than six months in any given period of twelve months, and to determine the relevant administrative conditions and procedures. The recipients of this specific travel authorisation may not stay for more than three months in the territory of the Member State; - to meet the need to convert the provisions concerning expulsion into a conventional Treaty-based legal instrument for cases where the third-country national no longer meets the conditions to travel in the territory of the Member States or the conditions for a specific travel authorisation; - to take into account the provision for reporting the presence of third-country nationals provided for in Article 22 of the Schengen Implementing Convention by transforming it into an optional provision; - to take over the objective of the Council Regulation on freedom of movement with a long-stay visa; - to take into account the amendments to be made to the Common Consular Instructions and the Common Manual. In particular, the following elements need to be stressed: - it is necessary to incorporate into this instrument the basic elements regarding procedures and the issuance of the specific travel authorisation, and in particular to make the instructions regarding procedures and the issuance of a short-stay visa, established by the Common Consular Instruction, applicable to it by analogy; - the Common Consular Instruction and the Common Manual will have to be amended in line with the normative provisions concerning the specific travel authorisation. There is also a need to adapt these two instruments to the normative provisions concerning the freedom of travel given to third-country nationals holding a long-stay visa. Finally, the Commission stresses the need to take account of the Tampere objectives of giving third-country nationals who reside lawfully in the territory of the Member States rights and obligations comparable to those of Union citizens and of defining in the long term a uniform status for persons who are granted asylum.?

Third-country nationals: freedom to travel for 3 months, free entry and movement for 6 months

The committee adopted the report by Margot KESSLER (PES, D) amending the proposal under the consultation procedure. Although it was generally in favour of the proposal, the committee wanted it to be in the form of a regulation rather than a directive, as the transposition into national law required by a directive would delay implementation for an indefinite period. The committee also adopted a number of other amendments, aimed mainly at clarifying the text. Lastly, it wanted to make sure that third-country nationals with a residence permit should not be in a worse position than those who obtained a visa repeatedly, and that persons with a long-stay visa should also be able to travel freely before submitting an application for a residence permit.?

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The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Margot KESSLER (PES, D). (Please refer to the summary dated 18/12/01). The report also stipulates that third-country nationals who hold valid residence permits issued by one of the Member States shall travel freely for up to three months in total within a period of six months within the territories of the other Member States, provided they carry their residence permits.?

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?Following the screening exercise of proposals pending undertaken as part of its effort for better regulation in the framework of the Partnership

for Growth and Jobs in the European Union, the Commission has decided to withdraw certain proposals on which the Legislator has not yet reached a decision and which were found not to be consistent with the Lisbon and Better Regulation criteria, unlikely to make further progress in the legislative process or found to be no longer topical for objective reasons?. (OJ C64 of 17.03.2006, pages 3-10).