Procedure file

Basic information

COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Regulation

Schengen area: digitalisation of the visa procedure

Amending Regulation 1995/1683 1994/0163(CNS)
Amending Regulation 2002/333 2001/0081(CNS)
Amending Regulation 2003/693 2003/0026(CNS)
Amending Regulation 2003/694 2003/0027(CNS)
Amending Regulation 2008/767 2004/0287(COD)
Amending Regulation 2009/810 2006/0142(COD)
Amending Regulation 2017/2226 2016/0106(COD)

Subject
7.10.04 External borders crossing and controls, visas

Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament
Committee responsible
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
Rapporteur
NEMEC Matjaž
Shadow rapporteur
PETERSEN Morten
MARQUARDT Erik
SOFO Vincenzo
URBÁN CRESPO Miguel

Committee for opinion
BUDG Budgets
Rapporteur for opinion
The committee decided not to give an opinion.

Council of the European Union
European Commission
Commission DG
Migration and Home Affairs
Commissioner
JOHANSSON Ylva

Key events

27/04/2022 Legislative proposal published
31/01/2023 Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report
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### Technical information

- **Procedure reference**: 2022/0132B(COD)
- **Procedure type**: COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
- **Procedure subtype**: Legislation
- **Legislative instrument**: Regulation
  - Amending Regulation 1995/1683 1994/0163(CNS)
  - Amending Regulation 2002/333 2001/0081(CNS)
  - Amending Regulation 2003/693 2003/0026(CNS)
  - Amending Regulation 2003/694 2003/0027(CNS)
  - Amending Regulation 2008/767 2004/0287(COD)
  - Amending Regulation 2009/810 2006/0142(COD)
  - Amending Regulation 2017/2226 2016/0106(COD)
- **Other legal basis**: Rules of Procedure EP 159
- **Stage reached in procedure**: Procedure completed
- **Committee dossier**: LIBE/9/12675

### Documentation gateway

- **Legislative proposal**: COM(2022)0658 27/04/2022 EC
- **Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations**: PE754.714 21/06/2023 EP
- **Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st**: A9-0268/2023 20/09/2023 EP Summary
Schengen area: digitalisation of the visa procedure


The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position, adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure, should amend the proposal as follows:

**Digital Schengen visa**

The amended text stressed that in order to make the Schengen visa application process smoother and more effective for third-country nationals and Member State authorities, it is necessary to allow Schengen visa applications to be lodged online, thereby making full use of recent legal and technological developments.

Members laid down the data fields of the digital visa in the annex replacing the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1683/95.

The digital visa will be issued as a 2D barcode and contain the facial image of the visa holder. The 2D barcode should be cryptographically signed by the Country Signing Certificate Authority of the issuing Member State.


**Implementing acts**

The Commission will adopt implementing acts to establish technical specifications for the uniform digital format for visas relating to: (a) technical standards and methods for: (i) encoding the data contained in the digital visa; and (b) the facial image; (c) specifications for generating the printable version of the digital visa.

**Start of issuing visas in digital format**

Once the implementing acts as regards the technical specifications have been adopted and eu-LISA has declared the successful completion of comprehensive tests, the Commission will adopt a decision, by means of an implementing act, setting the date from which Member States will issue digital visas.

By 1 December 2026 and every year thereafter until the decision of the Commission has been adopted, the Commission will submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the progress with regard to the implementation of this Regulation. That report will contain detailed information about the costs incurred and information on any risks which impact the overall costs.

Schengen area: digitalisation of the visa procedure


The European Parliament's position, adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure, should amend the proposal as follows:

**Digital Schengen visa**

The amended text stressed that to make the Schengen visa application process smoother and more effective for third-country nationals and Member State authorities, it is necessary to allow Schengen visa applications to be lodged online, thereby making full use of recent legal and technological developments.

The digital visa will be issued in a digital format, as a 2D barcode, and contain the facial image of the visa holder. The 2D barcode should be cryptographically signed by the Country Signing Certificate Authority of the issuing Member State.

**Data fields of the digital visa**

Members laid down the data fields of the digital visa in an annex replacing the annex to Regulation (EC) No 1683/95. The data fields of the digital visa cover in particular:

- issuing Member State;
- surname, name;
- surname at birth;
- date of birth;
- country and place of birth;
- sex;
- nationality and nationality at birth;
- type and number of travel document;
- issuing authority of the travel document;
- date of issue and of expiry of the travel document;
- the authority that issued the visa, its location and whether that authority issued the visa on behalf of another Member State;
- place and date of the decision to issue the visa;
- type of visa;
- if applicable, information indicating that the visa has been issued with limited territorial validity;
- number of the visa;
- the territory in which the visa holder is entitled to travel;
- the commencement and expiry date of the validity period of the visa;
- the number of entries authorised by the visa in the territory for which the visa is valid;
- the duration of the stay as authorised by the visa.

Member States may add national entries in the comments section in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 767/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Visa Information System (VIS) and the exchange of information between Member States on short-stay visas, long-stay visas and residence permits.

Implementing acts

The Commission will adopt implementing acts to establish technical specifications for the uniform digital format for visas relating to: (a) technical standards and methods for: (i) encoding the data contained in the digital visa; and (b) the facial image; (c) specifications for generating the printable version of the digital visa.

Start of issuing visas in digital format

Once the implementing acts as regards the technical specifications have been adopted and eu-LISA has declared the successful completion of comprehensive tests, the Commission will adopt a decision, by means of an implementing act, setting the date from which Member States will issue digital visas.

By 1 December 2026 and every year thereafter until the decision of the Commission has been adopted, the Commission will submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the progress with regard to the implementation of this Regulation. That report will contain detailed information about the costs incurred and information on any risks which impact the overall costs.

Schengen area: digitalisation of the visa procedure

PURPOSE: to introduce new rules that will enable people planning to travel to the Schengen area to apply for a visa online.


CONTENT: to make the Schengen visa application process smoother and more effective for third-country nationals and Member State authorities, it is necessary to allow Schengen visa applications to be lodged online, thereby making full use of recent legal and technological developments.

Under the new rules, visas will be issued in a uniform digital format only, as a 2D barcode, and contain the facial image of the visa holder. The 2D barcode will be cryptographically signed by the Country Signing Certificate Authority of the issuing Member State. This will reduce the security risks associated with counterfeiting and theft of visa stickers.

The Commission will adopt implementing acts to establish technical specifications for the uniform digital format for visas relating to: (a) technical standards and methods for: (i) encoding the data contained in the digital visa; and (b) the facial image; (c) specifications for generating the printable version of the digital visa.

Once the implementing acts as regards the technical specifications have been adopted and eu-LISA has declared the successful completion of comprehensive tests, the Commission will adopt a decision, by means of an implementing act, setting the date from which Member States will issue digital visas.

By 1 December 2026, and every year thereafter until the decision of the Commission setting the date from which Member States are to issue digital visas, the Commission will submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the progress with regard to the implementation of this Regulation.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 27.12.2023. The Regulation will apply from the date set by the Commission.