










Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	2022/0132B(COD) Procedure completed
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	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible  Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	Rapporteur  NEMEC Matjaž Shadow rapporteur  PETERSEN Morten  MARQUARDT Erik  SOFO Vincenzo  URBÁN CRESPO Miguel	Appointed 07/07/2022
	Committee for opinion  Budgets	Rapporteur for opinion The committee decided not to give an opinion.	Appointed
Council of the European Union European Commission	Commission DG Migration and Home Affairs	Commissioner JOHANSSON Ylva	

Key events			
27/04/2022	Legislative proposal published	COM(2022)0658	
31/01/2023	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report		

	adopted in committee		
13/02/2023	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71)		
15/02/2023	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71)		
29/06/2023	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE754.714	
29/06/2023	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
13/07/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
20/09/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0268/2023	Summary
17/10/2023	Debate in Parliament		
18/10/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
18/10/2023	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0371/2023	Summary
13/11/2023	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
22/11/2023	Final act signed		
07/12/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

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

reading/single reading					
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0371/2023	18/10/2023	EP	Summary
Draft final act		00045/2023/LEX	22/11/2023	CSL	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2023)591	17/01/2024	EC	

Final act
Regulation 2023/2685 OJ L 000 07.12.2023, p. 0000 Summary

Schengen area: digitalisation of the visa procedure

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs adopted the report by Matja NEMEC (S&D, SI) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 as regards the digitisation 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.

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.

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 adopted by 548 votes to 37, with 9 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 as regards the digitisation 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.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) 2023/2685 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 as regards the digitalisation of the visa procedure.

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.

