



Newsletter of the Visa-free Europe Coalition – summary of June 2015

News

Public hearing on „Visa Package” in the European Parliament

On the invitation of the chairperson of the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament, the Visa-free Europe Coalition presented its assessment of the European Commission's proposal to amend visa policy, what would influence issuance of visas to citizens of Eastern Partnership and Russia. [30.06.2015]

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Roll out of the VIS

The Visa Information System has been introduced in six Eastern Partnership countries on 23 June 2015 and will be launched in Russia on 14 September 2015. [24.06.2015]

[Read more about VIS in Russia... and in Belarus...](#)

Mandatory fingerprinting of Russian applicants for Schengen visas not political?

Russian applicants for Schengen visas will be fingerprinted starting on 14 September. "This decision bears absolutely no relation to politics or the sanctions; it is strictly technical" - Soren Liborius, press secretary of the European Union Delegation in Russia has said. [30.06.2015]

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Poroshenko: A visa-free regime with EU is a priority

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has said that every state authority in Ukraine should see work towards the visa-free regime with the European Union as a priority. The president demanded that an update on the fulfilment of the European Commission's recommendations should be prepared by 17 August 2015. [17.06.2015]

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Latvian FM: Visa liberalisation possible in Armenia

Commenting on possible repercussions of lifting visa requirements for Georgia, Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics noted: "all of our partners will be given an opportunity for visa liberalization. We achieved certain progress with Armenia and Azerbaijan. So if the latter agree, and meet all the criteria, I do not see an impediment for visa liberalisation there". [16.06.2015]

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EU Diplomat: Constructive attitude to visas for Belarusians

Rodolphe Richard, head of the Political, Press and Information Section at the EU Delegation to Belarus, referred to EU foreign ministers' directives that called for more long-term and multi-entry Schengen visas to be issued to Belarusians even in the absence of a visa facilitation deal between the EU and Belarus. [11.06.2015]

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