



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate B : Immigration and Asylum
Unit B3 : Visa policy

Brussels, 19 JAN. 2012
HOME/B3/AMS

To: Ms Joanna Fomina
e-mail: jfomina@batory.org.pl

Dear Ms Fomina,

Thank you for your e-mail of 25 November 2011 addressed to Mr Rozenburg who has asked me to reply as I am the Head of the Unit responsible for "Visa policy".

I confirm that according to the Visa Code, holders of a multiple entry visa with a validity of between 6 months and 5 years are entitled to a stay of 90 days/180 days calculated from the date of first entry. This is clarified in the operational instructions¹, Part II, point 9.1.1.3.

So far we have not been informed of cases where a holder of a multiple entry visa – a frequent traveller - would not be aware of the period of stay allowed to holders of such visa.

However, I can inform you that in the Visa Committee established under the Visa Code, work is currently being undertaken to establish harmonised best practices for providing information to visa holders in the form of an "information sheet" containing the key information for visa holders, including information on how to read the visa sticker. Such information sheets may be handed out to visa holders and made available on the consulates' website.

As regards the alleged infringement of the provisions on the period of allowed stay under a multiple entry visa with a validity beyond 6 months, the Commission Services will address this matter in the next meeting of the Visa Committee.

Yours sincerely,


Jan De Ceuster
Head of Unit

¹ Commission Decision C(2010) 1920 final of 19.3.2010 establishing the Handbook for the processing of visa applications and the modification of issued visas, as amended by Commission Decision C(2011) 5501 final of 4.8.2011.