

The recommendations on UE visa policy and practices

1. Issuance of multiple-entry visas with long-term validity (3-5 years) visas to all bona fide travelers/people with Schengen positive visa history (at least 2 visas used according to the rules) There should be a shift of focus – not on purpose of the trip but on the possible illegal migration/crime threat of the potential traveler.
2. In case of non-issuance of a long-term validity visa (3-5 years) to a person with positive Schengen visa history the consular staff should provide a written justification of the reason for only short validity visa issuance.
3. The notion of bona fide traveler/ positive visa history should be clearly defined.
4. Obligatory collection of statistics on visas issued by EU MS that include the multiple-entry visas with long-term validity by the EU MS and submission to the European Commission that makes the information easily available for public.
5. Collection and publishing precise statistics on groups of visa recipients (e.g. tourists, students, business, journalists) and the numbers of non-issued visas in order to credibly assess the process of visa facilitation between European Union and Eastern Partnership countries.
6. More approachable and easy-finding access to the statistics and information on visas and connected to them procedures.
7. Obligation to inform applicants about: the possibility of application for long-term visas, visa fee waiving for concrete groups, possibility of appealing against a negative decision.
8. Harmonizing the appealing procedure between the EU countries.
9. In case of an EU MS relying on outsourcing of some services with regard to visa applications processing - ensuring real choice for the applicants whether to apply through the consulate or external service providers.
10. Ensuring an option of lodging a complaint about functioning of external service providers (i.e. visa centers).
11. Ensuring consular cooperation with other EU MS in order to enable visa application process in case of lack of representation of an EU MS in a given third country – to make sure that visa applicants do not need to travel to another state to submit their visa application.
12. Introduction of the closed and exhaustive list of supporting documents according to facilitation agreements.
13. Acceptance of electronic invitations when sent by email/faxed from the inviting party directly to the consulate.
14. Withdrawing/liberalizing the “proof of funds” rule, at least for bona fide travelers/people with Schengen positive visa history.
15. Issuing short stay visas with 2-3 days longer term of validity (window safety).
16. In case of EaP country citizens who apply for Schengen visa in the country of their temporary residence, the validity period for their visas should not be tied to the duration of the residence permit where the EaP citizens are temporarily based to insure mobility rights and freedom of movement.
17. More efficient and hearable informing on European Commission Open consultation - Improving procedures for obtaining short-stay Schengen visas.

Yours, sincerely,

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