



Brussels, 24.10.2018  
C(2018) 6862 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 24.10.2018**

**amending Implementing Decision C(2011)5500 final, as regards the title and the list of supporting documents to be presented by visa applicants in Saudi Arabia**

**(Only the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish texts are authentic)**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code), and in particular Article 48(1)<sup>1</sup>,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 lays down the Union rules for the issuing of visas for transit through or intended stays in the territory of Member States not exceeding 90 days in any 180 days period.
- (2) In order to ensure harmonised application of the common visa policy, Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 established that within local Schengen cooperation the need to complete and harmonise the lists of supporting documents should be assessed in each jurisdiction in order to take account of local circumstances.
- (3) The local Schengen cooperation in Saudi Arabia has confirmed the need to harmonise the list of supporting documents and have accordingly drawn up a list which is set out in Commission Implementing Decision C(2011)5500 final<sup>2</sup>.
- (4) Further to a renewed assessment taking into account local circumstances, the local Schengen cooperation has confirmed the need for revising the list of supporting documents to be submitted by visa applicants in Saudi Arabia to take account of the experience gained and recognising the need to reinforce certain requirements regarding proof of sufficient financial means and proof of employment for Saudi and non-Saudi nationals.
- (5) In individual cases it should still be possible for consulates to waive the requirement to submit one or more of the listed supporting documents in the case of applicants known to them for their integrity and reliability in accordance with Article 14(6) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 or, in justified cases, during the examination of an

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 243, 15.9.2009, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2011)5500 final of 4.8.2011 establishing the list of supporting documents to be presented by visa applicants in China (in Beijing, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Shanghai and Wuhan), Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Vietnam (in Hanoi and Ho-Chi Minh City) [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/docs/pdf/1\\_en\\_act\\_part1\\_v4\\_en.pdf#zoom=100](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/docs/pdf/1_en_act_part1_v4_en.pdf#zoom=100)

application, to request additional documents, in accordance with Article 21(8) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009.

- (6) Given that Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 builds upon the Schengen acquis, Denmark, in accordance with Article 5 of the Protocol on the position of Denmark annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Community and Article 4 of Protocol (No 22) on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on the European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, decided to implement Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 in its national law. Denmark is therefore bound under international law to implement this Decision.
- (7) This Decision constitutes a development of provisions of the Schengen acquis in which the United Kingdom does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision 2000/365/EC<sup>3</sup>. The United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application. This Decision should therefore not be addressed to the United Kingdom.
- (8) This Decision constitutes a development of provisions of the Schengen acquis in which Ireland does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision 2002/192/EC<sup>4</sup>. Ireland is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application. This Decision should therefore not be addressed to Ireland.
- (9) As regards Iceland and Norway, this Decision constitutes a development of provisions of the Schengen acquis within the meaning of the Agreement concluded by the Council of the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the association of those two States with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B of Council Decision 1999/437/EC<sup>5</sup>.
- (10) As regards Switzerland, this Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen acquis within the meaning of the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B of Council Decision 1999/437/EC read in conjunction with Article 3 of Council Decision 2008/146/EC.<sup>6</sup>
- (11) As regards Liechtenstein, this Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen acquis within the meaning of the Protocol signed between the European Union, the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the accession of the Principality of Liechtenstein to

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<sup>3</sup> Council Decision 2000/365/EC of 29 May 2000 concerning the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen acquis (OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43).

<sup>4</sup> Council Decision 2002/192/EC of 28 February 2002 concerning Ireland's request to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen acquis (OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20).

<sup>5</sup> Council Decision 1999/437/EC of 17 May 1999 on certain arrangements for the application of the Agreement concluded by the Council of the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the association of those two States with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis (OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 31).

<sup>6</sup> Council Decision 2008/146/EC of 28 January 2008 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis (OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 1).

the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B of Council Decision 1999/437/EC read in conjunction with Article 3 of Council Decision 2011/350/EU<sup>7</sup>.

- (12) As regards Cyprus, this Decision constitutes an act building upon, or otherwise related to, the Schengen acquis within the meaning of Article 3(2) of the 2003 Act of Accession.
- (13) As regards Bulgaria and Romania, this Decision constitutes an act building upon, or otherwise related to, the Schengen acquis within the meaning of Article 4(2) of the 2005 Act of Accession.
- (14) As regards Croatia, this Decision constitutes an act building upon, or otherwise related to, the Schengen acquis within the meaning of Article 4(2) of the 2012 Act of Accession.
- (15) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Visa Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

Annex 2 to Implementing Decision C(2011)5500 final is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

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<sup>7</sup> Council Decision 2011/350/EU of 7 March 2011 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol between the European Union, the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the accession of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis, relating to the abolition of checks at internal borders and movement of persons (OJ L 160, 18.6.2011, p. 19).

*Article 2*

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Estonia, the Hellenic Republic, the Kingdom of Spain, Republic of Croatia, the French Republic, the Italian Republic, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, Romania, the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden.

Done at Brussels, 24.10.2018

*For the Commission*  
*Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS*  
*Member of the Commission*





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ANNEX

ANNEX

*to the*

**Commission Implementing Decision**

**amending Implementing Decision C(2011)5500 final, as regards the title and the list of supporting documents to be presented by visa applicants in Saudi Arabia**

## **List of supporting documents to be submitted by applicants for short stay visas in Saudi Arabia**

### **1. Documents to be provided by all visa applicants**

- Copy of flight/travel reservation/s including details of the itinerary and the flight reservation number.
- Bank statements for the last three months, including the current balance, or other verifiable evidence of sufficient means of subsistence during the intended stay, e.g. credit card copy and credit card statement.
- If the passport does not state the place of birth, a copy of ID card or a birth certificate must be submitted.
- For minors travelling without their parents/legal guardian: original authorisation signed by their parents/legal guardian and copy of passport(s) of parents/legal guardian.
- Original letter from employer/sponsor in Saudi Arabia stating employment status, position held, date of recruitment, length of contract and whether renewable or not, as well as salary, attested by the Chamber of Commerce.

The letter must include the purpose of the visit and cost coverage guarantee, whether it is covered by the company or by the applicant. The letter from the sponsor must include the name and contact details (including mobile phone number) of the responsible person from the company.

**Self-employed:** valid original trade licence and one copy thereof with translation.

**Private/domestic staff:** a letter from the sponsor and a copy of the job contract.

#### **Non-Saudi nationals:**

- Iqama, valid for at least three months after the planned date of return, and one copy thereof.
- Saudi Arabian re-entry visa valid beyond the intended date of departure from the territory of the Schengen States.
- Bank statements (showing the regular monthly income/salary) for the past six months or other verifiable evidence of sufficient means of substance during intended stay.

### **2. Business**

- Invitation letter from a company or an authority to attend a meeting, conference or confirmed registrations for trade fairs or congresses. In addition documents which show the existence of trade relations or relations for work purposes. The invitation letter must state the exact period and duration of the event, and whether the company covers the costs for the applicant's stay or not. If the applicant needs to travel regularly, that should be also mentioned.
- Hotel reservation covering the intended stay.

### **3. Tourism or Private Visits**

- For tourism: Proof of accommodation during intended stay: hotel reservation or copy of a rental contract or proof of self-used property in the name of the applicant.
- For private visits: Original invitation letter signed by the host covering the intended stay (where applicable: using the official format required by the Member State's national legislation. The invitation letter from the host must include the contact details and a full reference address.

#### **4. Medical Treatment**

- A document issued by the medical institution in the Member State confirming that the applicant will receive medical care in that institution; the document should include the date(s) of the treatment, duration and cost.
- A recent medical report from a Saudi health or rehabilitation facility.
- Pre-payment or other proof of sufficient financial means to cover the medical treatment and related expenses, such as insurance coverage. A proof of who covers the costs, if covered by a third party.

#### **5. Study or Training**

Certificate of enrolment at an educational establishment in the Schengen Member State for the purposes of attending vocational or theoretical courses within the framework of basic and further training or student cards or certificates of the courses to be attended. The certificate of enrolment from the educational establishment must include the contact details and a full reference address.

#### **6. Diplomatic and other Official Government Missions**

Verbal Note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stating also the purpose of the visit.

##### **For Non-Saudi Nationals:**

Verbal Note from their Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Diplomatic Mission in Saudi Arabia stating also the purpose of the visit.

#### **7. Airport Transit**

- Valid visa for the country of next or final destination, or a copy of a residence card.
- Proof of the intention of carrying out the onward journey: copy of continuation ticket or reservation.