



Brussels, 11.9.2020
C(2020) 6149 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 11.9.2020

amending Implementing Decision C(2014) 2737 final, as regards the list of supporting documents to be submitted by applicants for short stay visas in Belarus

(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)¹, and in particular Article 48(1a)(a) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 lays down procedures and conditions for the issuing of visas for transit through or intended stays on the territory of Member States that do not exceed 90 days in any 180-day period.
- (2) To ensure that the common visa policy is uniformly applied, Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 provides that harmonised lists of supporting documents should be drawn up within local Schengen cooperation in each jurisdiction so that local circumstances can be taken into account.
- (3) Local Schengen cooperation in Belarus has confirmed the need to harmonise the list of supporting documents which is set out in Annex I to Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 2737 final.²
- (4) Following a renewed assessment that takes local circumstances into account, the local Schengen cooperation has confirmed that the list of supporting documents to be submitted by visa applicants in Belarus needs to be revised. The revision should restructure the list for the sake of clarity. The revision should also take account of the experience gained from applying the previous harmonised list by specifying the documents to be submitted by certain categories of travellers and for certain travel purposes and the documents to prove possession of financial means. Documents that have become obsolete should be deleted.
- (5) For applicants that are known to consulates for their integrity and reliability, it should be possible for those consulates to waive the requirement to submit one or more of the listed supporting documents, in accordance with Article 14(6) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009. It should also be possible, in justified cases, for consulates to request

¹ OJ L 243, 15.9.2009, p. 1.

² Commission Implementing Decision of 29 April 2014 establishing the list of supporting documents to be submitted by visa applicants in Belarus, Cameroon, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates (C(2014) 2737 final).

additional documents during an examination of an application, 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 Protocol No 5 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 European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, notified the implementation of 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/EC³. The United Kingdom is therefore not bound by it or subject to its application.
- (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/EC⁴; Ireland is therefore not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
- (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 latter's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*⁵, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B of Council Decision 1999/437/EC⁶.
- (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*⁷, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B of Decision 1999/437/EC, read in conjunction with Article 3 of Council Decision 2008/146/EC⁸.
- (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 the Agreement

³ 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).

⁴ 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).

⁵ OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 36.

⁶ 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).

⁷ OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 52.

⁸ 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).

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*⁹, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B of Decision 1999/437/EC read in conjunction with Article 3 of Council Decision 2011/350/EU¹⁰.

- (12) This Decision constitutes an act building upon, or otherwise related to, the Schengen *acquis* within, respectively, the meaning of Article 3(2) of the 2003 Act of Accession, Article 4(2) of the 2005 Act of Accession and Article 4(2) of the 2011 Act of Accession.
- (13) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Visa Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Annex I to Implementing Decision C(2014) 2737 final is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision

⁹ OJ L 160, 18.6.2011, p. 21.

¹⁰ 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, the French Republic, the Republic of Croatia, 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, 11.9.2020

For the Commission
Ylva JOHANSSON
Member of the Commission





Brussels, 11.9.2020
C(2020) 6149 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

amending Implementing Decision C(2014) 2737 final, as regards the list of supporting documents to be presented by visa applicants in Belarus

ANNEX

“Annex I

List of supporting documents to be submitted by applicants for short stay visas in Belarus

I. Documents to be submitted by all visa applicants

1. Travel arrangements:

- round ticket or reservation, **or**
- other documents proving use of other means of transport such as contract with the transportation company or copy of registration certificate and drivers licence, documents proving persons right to use car or other mean of transport etc., if applicable.
- a proof of accommodation (e.g. hotel reservation, contract of rented accommodation), if applicable.

2. Proof of financial means:

- Bank statements showing bank operations over the last three months;
- A letter of sponsorship, if the cost of the stay is covered by a sponsor:
 - a) The sponsorship form may be the national form required by some Member States, or
 - b) the letter of sponsorship (dated and signed) must contain the following information:
 - full name, date of birth,
 - address and contacts of the sponsor;
 - link between the sponsor and the applicant;
 - destination and duration of the visit;
 - list of costs which are covered by the sponsor;
 - the sponsor’s bank statement showing bank operations over the last three months.

or,

- other documents that prove that the applicant has sufficient financial means for the trip (i.e. proof of ownership on real estate, ownership of company shares, stock options, work contract).

3. Documents to be provided by employees:

- Letter from the employer, confirming:
 - the employee's position,
 - date of employment and date of end of employment, if relevant,

and

- Salary slips for the last three months.

4. Documents to be provided by individual entrepreneurs:

- Registration certificate;
- Last tax statement.

5. Documents to be provided by pupils/students:

- Proof of enrolment in school or university or a student ID.

6. Documents to be provided by pensioners:

- Pension booklet.

7. Documents to be provided by unemployed persons:

- a document proving the applicant's ties to Belarus (i.e. marriage certificate, birth certificate, death certificate, proof of property ownership) and sufficient financial means for the trip, and a copy of the work booklet's page with personal data and pages which show the holder's job history at least during last three years, if applicable.

8. Documents to be provided by minors (under 18 years of age):

- a copy of birth certificate;
- the consent of the parental authority and /or legal guardian shall be provided through a notarised certificate, as applicable, if the minor travels alone or only with one parent or his/her legal guardian;
- if the first name of the parent(s) and family name are different than the ones presented in the birth certificate of the minor, the parent(s) shall provide additional documents (marriage certificate, court order or any other documents proving a change of given name or surname confirming the relationship of the parent(s) with the minor.

9. For non-Belarus citizens: proof of legal stay (valid visa or residence permit)

II. Documents to be submitted depending on the travel purpose

1. Journeys undertaken for the purpose of tourism

- Copy of service contract between the travel company and the applicant, or travel voucher issued by the partner company if the visa application is presented by an accredited travel company, or
- a written description of the purpose of the planned journey.

2. Journeys undertaken for the purpose of official visits (bilateral or multilateral) – members of official delegations

- a letter issued by a competent authority of the Member State, the European Union or Belarus confirming that the applicant is a member of its delegation, respectively or a permanent member of its delegation, travelling to the territory of the other Party to participate in the aforementioned events;
- a copy of the official invitation.

3. For family/friends visits

a) for close relatives – spouses, children, parents and persons exercising the parental authority, grandparents, grandchildren visiting citizens of Belarus legally residing in the Member States, or citizens of the Union residing in the territory of the Member State of which they are nationals:

- a written request from the host person, a proof of family ties, a proof of a legal residence of citizens of Belarus in the Member States.

b) For journeys undertaken to visit family, other than the close relatives, as referred to above, or friends:

- An invitation or other document proving the purpose of the journey must be presented.

4. For business people and representatives of business organisations

- written request from the host legal person or company, organisation or an office or a branch of such legal person or company, state, or local authorities of Belarus or one of the Member States or organising committees of trade and industrial exhibitions, conferences and symposia held in the territory of Belarus or one of the Member States endorsed by the competent authorities in accordance with the national legislation;
- a copy of the state registration certificate of the inviting and/or invited party, or both if applicable.

5. For journeys undertaken by drivers conducting international cargo and passenger transportation services between the territories of Belarus and the Member States in vehicles registered in the Member States or in Belarus

- a written request from the national company or association (union) of carriers of Belarus ВАМАР (The Association of International Road Carriers of Belarus, Белорусская ассоциация международных автомобильных перевозчиков «БАМАП») stating the purpose, itinerary, duration and frequency of the trips; or
- a written request by companies registered in the Member States or in third countries providing for international road transportation, stating the purpose, itinerary, duration and frequency of the trips.
- documents concerning the transport company: registration number, as required by the national law of the Member State or of Belarus, and, if applicable, contract between a company established in Belarus or in a third country and its partner company established in the Member States.
- documents concerning the driver:
 - driver's license,
 - transport truck driving certificate,
 - copy of registration certificates of truck and trailer or bus,
 - licence or permit for carrying out long-distance transportation of cargo or passengers.

6. For journeys undertaken by members of train, refrigerator and locomotive crews in international trains travelling to the territories of Belarus and Member States

- a written request from the competent railway organization or company of Belarus or one of the Member States, stating the purpose, duration and frequency of the trips.

7. For journeys undertaken to carry out journalistic activities and for journeys undertaken by accredited persons accompanying journalists in a professional capacity

- a certificate or other document issued by a professional organization or the applicant's employer proving that the person concerned is a qualified journalist and stating that the purpose of the journey is to carry out journalistic work or proving that he/she is a member of technical crew accompanying the journalist in a professional capacity.

8. For persons and members of professions participating in scientific, academic, cultural or artistic activities, including international exhibitions, conferences or other similar events, or university and other exchange programmes

- a written request from the host organisation to participate in those activities stating purpose and duration of the trip; or
- other document proving the purpose of the journey (e.g. entrance ticket to a cultural event, a fair, an exhibition, proof of link to the applicant's profession).

9. For pupils, students, post-graduate students and accompanying teachers who undertake trips for the purposes of study or educational training, including in the framework of exchange programmes as well as other school-related activities

- a written request or a certificate of enrolment from the host university, academy, institute, college or school or student cards or certificates of the courses to be attended.

10. For participants in international sports events and persons accompanying them in a professional capacity

- a written request from the host organisation - competent bodies, national sport federations of the Member States or Belarus or National Olympic Committee of Belarus or National Olympic Committees of the Member States.

11. For participants in official exchange programmes organized by twin cities or other municipal entities

- a written request of the Head of Administration/Mayor of these cities or municipal authorities.

12. For visiting military and civil burial grounds

- an official document confirming the existence and preservation of the grave as well as family or other relationship between the applicant and the buried.

13. For relatives visiting for burial ceremonies

- an official document confirming the fact of death as well as confirmation of the family or other relationship between the applicant and the deceased.

14. For persons travelling for medical reasons and necessary accompanying persons

- an official document of the medical institution confirming necessity of medical care in this institution, the necessity of being accompanied and proof of sufficient financial means to pay for the medical treatment.

15. For persons travelling for the purpose of carrying out paid activities or internship

- under the national legislation of individual Member States, some paid activities or internships require the applicant to provide a work permit or a similar document: cf. the website of the Member State concerned.

16. For persons travelling for the purpose of transit

- visa or other entry permit for the country of destination.

17. For representatives of civil society organisations when undertaking trips for the purposes of educational training, seminars, conferences, including in the framework of exchange programmes

- a written request issued by the host organization, a confirmation that the person is representing the civil society organisation.

18. For participants in official EU cross-border cooperation programmes between Belarus and the Union

- a written request by the host organisation.“