

Brussels, 5.3.2025  
C(2025) 1326 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 5.3.2025**

**amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 1585 as regards the list of supporting documents to be submitted by applicants in Cuba for short-stay visas**

(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<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 14(5a) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 lays down the procedures and conditions for issuing visas for intended stays on the territory of the Member States that do not exceed 90 days in any 180-day period ('short-stay visas').
- (2) Article 48(1a), point (a), of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 provides that Member States and the Commission are to cooperate in preparing harmonised lists of supporting documents to be submitted by visa applicants, taking into account Article 14 of that Regulation.
- (3) Annex IV to Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 1585<sup>2</sup> sets out the list of supporting documents to be submitted by applicants for short-stay visas in Cuba.
- (4) Following a renewed analysis taking the assessment of local circumstances into account, the harmonised list of supporting documents to be submitted by visa applicants in Cuba needs to be revised. The format of the list should be updated to avoid the repetition of requirements, reformulate some of the existing provisions or relocate them within the list, and to specify the documents to be submitted for minors and those submitted as proof of means of subsistence, accommodation and family ties. Documents that have become obsolete should no longer be included in the list.
- (5) Implementing Decision C(2015) 1585 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (6) For applicants that are known to a consulate for their integrity and reliability, that consulate may, under certain conditions, waive the requirements set out in Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009, in accordance with Article 14(6) of that Regulation. In justified cases, consulates may also request additional documents during the examination of a visa application, in accordance with Article 21(8) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 243, 15.9.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/810/oj>.

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision (C(2015) 1585 of 16.3.2015 establishing the list of supporting documents to be presented by visa applicants in Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cuba and Palestine.

- (7) Given that Denmark decided to implement Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 which builds upon the Schengen *acquis* in its national law, in accordance with 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, Denmark is bound under international law to implement this Decision.
- (8) This Decision does not constitute a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* in which Ireland takes part, in accordance with Council Decision 2002/192/EC<sup>3</sup>; 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 the 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*<sup>4</sup>, 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*<sup>6</sup>, 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/EC<sup>7</sup>.
- (11) As regards Liechtenstein, this Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning 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*<sup>8</sup>, 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/EU<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>3</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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2002/192/oj>)

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 36, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_internation/1999/439\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/1999/439(1)/oj).

<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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1999/437/oj>).

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 52, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_internation/2008/178\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2008/178(1)/oj).

<sup>7</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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2008/146/oj>).

<sup>8</sup> OJ L 160, 18.6.2011, p. 21, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/prot/2011/349/oj>.

<sup>9</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

- (12) As regards Cyprus, this decision constitutes an act building upon, or otherwise relating to, the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning of Article 3(2) of the 2003 Act of Accession.
- (13) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 52(1) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

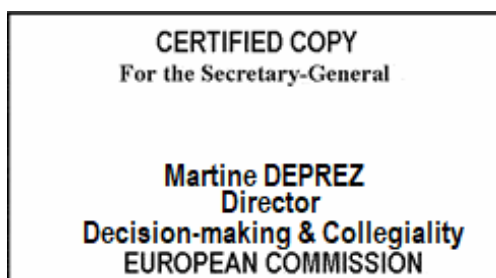
Annex IV to Implementing Decision C(2015) 1585 is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

*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, 5.3.2025

*For the Commission*  
*Magnus BRUNNER*  
*Member of the Commission*



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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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2011/350/oj>).



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

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ANNEX

**ANNEX**

*to the*

**Commission Implementing Decision**

**amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 1585 as regards the list of supporting documents to be submitted by applicants in Cuba for short-stay visas**

## **Annex**

### **‘ANNEX IV**

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

##### **I. General requirements for all applicants**

1. Proof of residence in Cuba (for foreign citizens the residence permit must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the date of intended departure from the territory of the Member States).
2. Travel plans.
3. Availability of accommodation, for example:
  - (a) hotel reservation or
  - (b) proof of sponsorship and/or private accommodation as specified in Article 14(4) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 (Visa Code).
4. Where applicable, proof of any family ties by means of the relevant documentation, legalised by the Foreign Ministry, such as birth certificate, marriage certificate, children's birth certificates.
5. Proof of property ownership or a rental contract.
6. Proof of sufficient means of subsistence for the planned stay and return to Cuba, if not entirely covered by the inviting person/institution. This may consist of:
  - a) personal or family bank statements with regular movements and deposits in the last six months and possibility to withdraw the necessary funds from the bank account; or
  - b) account statements for credit cards held by the applicant.
7. According to the personal situation and if applicable, proof of:
  - (a) employment: letter from the workplace containing personal details of the person, job title, employment start date and salary, authorisation for absence;
  - (b) if self employed: documents attesting the self-employed status and the payment of taxes;
  - (c) academic enrolment: letter from the educational institution or university (authorising absence).

8. Minors travelling must also present the following supporting documents:
- (a) Birth certificate legalised by the Foreign Ministry;
  - (b) if the minor travels alone or with only one parent: proof of consent, no older than 12 months, of both parents or the legal guardian for the minor to leave the country. This does not apply if the accompanying parent can prove that he or she has sole parental responsibility;
  - (c) The minor must be accompanied to the visa appointment by at least one parent or the legal guardian, or by an adult who has special authorisation.

## **II. Documents to be submitted depending on the purpose of the trip**

### **1. Visit to relatives or friends**

- (a) Invitation or guarantee according to national legislation of the particular Schengen state. Depending on the Member State, this may require that proof of sponsorship and/or private accommodation is provided by means of a specific form (notarised or with digital signature issued by national authority).
- (b) Invitation letters should be drawn up by the host/inviting party or company and containing at least the following information:
  - whether its purpose includes sponsorship or private accommodation, or both;
  - whether the host is an individual, a company or an organisation;
  - the host's identity and contact details;
  - the identity data (name, surname, date of birth, place of birth and nationality) of the applicant(s);
  - the address of the accommodation;
  - the length and purpose of the stay;
  - possible family ties with the host.

### **2. Journeys undertaken for the purpose of tourism**

Relevant documents/reservations of itinerary and services indicating intended travel plans.

### **3. Business**

- (a) An invitation from the company or authority in the Member State (such as public body, public university) to attend meetings, conferences or events related to business, industry or work, indicating the purpose and duration of the stay, including a declaration of sponsorship, if travel or accommodation expenses are covered by the inviting entity;
- (b) other documents proving the existence of commercial or labour relations (such as contracts);
- (c) tickets for fairs and conferences;

- (d) documents demonstrating the economic activities of the host company/organisation (such as an up-to-date copy of the document concerning registration with the Chamber of Commerce);
- (e) documents demonstrating the applicant's professional status;
- (f) any documents indicating the purpose and duration of the trip. For example, a note verbale from the competent Cuban Ministry (such as Foreign Ministry, Ministry of External Trade).

4. Journeys undertaken for the purpose of research, study or training

- (a) Certificate of enrolment in an educational establishment to follow courses, receive scientific or practical training courses (including vocational training) or take part in other events aimed at improving professional or educational qualifications within the framework of basic and further training;
- (b) Introduction letter from the Cuban organisation substantiating the applicant's status as a student/lecturer/researcher, etc. and the purpose and duration of the study trip;
- (c) Relevant documentation demonstrating correspondence between the applicant's training and the activity for which he or she is to be invited;
- (d) Proof of advance payment of training courses and activities;
- (e) Attestation of coverage of costs for the duration of the trip; for example, declaration of sponsorship, educational establishment grant, declaration by the Cuban organisation of coverage of travel, accommodation and subsistence costs;
- (f) Other documents indicating the aim and duration of the stay for the purposes of study, e.g. a note verbale from the competent Cuban ministry (such as Foreign Ministry, Ministry of External Trade).

5. Journeys undertaken for participation in political, scientific, cultural, sporting or religious events:

- (a) An official invitation, tickets, enrolments forms or programmes bearing the name of the host organisation and the duration of the stay, or any other appropriate document indicating the purpose of the journey, including a declaration of who will cover the expenses;
- (b) Any other documents, indicating the purpose and duration of the stay, such as a note from the competent Cuban ministry.

6. Airport Transit, if applicable:

Visa or other entry permit for the next non-Schengen destination and tickets for onward travel.'