

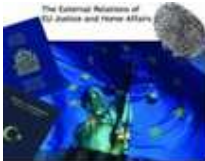


Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

## JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Sectoral Committee  
Weekly Update  
**07.05.10**

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## Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

### **COM (2010) 197 - Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the signing of the Agreement between the European Union and Georgia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas**

### **COM (2010) 198 - Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and Georgia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas**

In 2009 the Commission negotiated a visa facilitation agreement between the European Union and Georgia. Following a consultation and approval process on both sides as well as further clarification of a few additional points, the agreed text was initialled on 25 November 2009 in Brussels by the Chief Negotiators of both Parties.

In these proposals the Commission is proposing that the Council adopt a Decision:

- for the Agreement to be concluded (COM(2010)198); and
- for the Agreement be signed (COM(2010)197).

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0197:FIN:EN:PDF>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0198:FIN:EN:PDF>

### **COM (2010) 199- Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the signature of the Agreement between the European Union and Georgia on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation**

### **COM (2010) 200 - Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and Georgia on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation**

Further to the proposals above, in December 2005 COREPER<sup>1</sup> had stated that the visa facilitation agreement would not be concluded if no readmission agreement were in place. Thus the Commission had negotiated a readmission agreement between the European Community and Georgia. In February 2009 the Commission transmitted a draft text to the Georgian authorities. This was followed by formal negotiations. Following a consultation and approval process on both sides as well as further clarification of a few additional points, the agreed text was initialled on 25 November 2009 in Brussels by the Chief Negotiators of both Parties.

In these proposals the Commission is proposing that the Council adopt a Decision:

- for the Agreement to be concluded (COM(2010)200); and
- for the Agreement be signed (COM(2010)199).

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0199:FIN:EN:PDF>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0200:FIN:EN:PDF>

<sup>1</sup> Committee of Permanent Representatives



## Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

### **COM (2010) 204 Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on freedom of movement for workers within the Union (Codification)**

The purpose of this proposal is to undertake a codification of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community. The new Regulation will supersede the various acts incorporated in it; this proposal fully preserves the content of the acts being codified and hence does no more than bring them together with only such formal amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0204:FIN:EN:PDF>

### **Asylum in EU27: Around 260 000 asylum applicants registered in 2009**

In 2009, there were nearly 261 000 asylum applicants registered in the EU27. The main countries of citizenship of these applicants were Afghanistan (8%), Russia (8%), Somalia (7%), Iraq (7%) and Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (5%).

#### **Highest number of applicants recorded in France, Germany and UK**

In 2009, the highest number of applicants were registered in France (47 600 applicants) followed by Germany (31 800), the United Kingdom (30 300), Sweden (24 200), Belgium (21 600), Italy (17 500), the Netherlands (16 100), Greece (15 900) and Austria (15 800).

When compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rates of applicants registered were recorded in Malta (5 800 applicants per million inhabitants), Cyprus (3 300), Sweden (2 600), Belgium (2 000) and Austria (1 900).

#### **First instance decisions<sup>2</sup>**

In 2009 in the EU27, 229 500 first instance decisions were made on asylum applications. There were 166 900 rejections (73% of decisions), 27 600 applicants (12%) were granted refugee status, 26 200 (11%) subsidiary protection and 8 900 (4%) were granted authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons. It should be noted that first instance decisions made in 2009 may refer to applications registered in previous years.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> **First instance decision** means a decision made in response to an asylum application at the first instance level of the asylum procedure.

<sup>3</sup> These data on asylum applicants in the EU27 are taken from a report issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.