Regulation (EU) 2017/1370 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 laying down a uniform format for visas

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THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 77(2)(a) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure[(1)],

Whereas:

(1) Council Regulation (EC) No 1683/95[(2)] laid down a uniform format for visas.

(2) The common design for the visa sticker, which has been in circulation for 20 years, is considered to be compromised in view of serious incidents of counterfeiting and fraud.

(3) A new common design should therefore be established with more modern security features to render the visa sticker more secure and to prevent forgery.

(4) Upon request from Ireland or the United Kingdom, the Commission should enter into appropriate arrangements with the requesting Member State to exchange technical information with that Member State for the purposes of issuing national visas by that Member State.

(5) This Regulation respects fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

(6) This Regulation constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* in which the United Kingdom does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision 2000/365/EC[(3)]; the United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in the adoption of this Regulation and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

(7) This Regulation constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* in which Ireland does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision 2002/192/EC[(4)]; Ireland is therefore not taking part in the adoption of this Regulation and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

(8) TThis Regulation constitutes an act building upon, or otherwise related to, the Schengen *acquis* within, respectively, the meaning of Article 3(1) of the 2003 Act of Accession, of Article 4(1) of the 2005 Act of Accession and of Article 4(1) of the 2011 Act of Accession.

(9) As regards Iceland and Norway, this Regulation 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 latters' 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/EC[(6)].

(10) As regards Switzerland, this Regulation 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/EC[(8)].

(11) As regards Liechtenstein, this Regulation 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*[(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/EU[(10)].

(12) Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 is amended as follows:

(1) in Article 7, the following paragraphs are added:

> Upon request from Ireland or the United Kingdom, the Commission shall enter into appropriate arrangements with the requesting Member State to exchange technical information referred to in Article 2 for the purposes of issuing national visas by the requesting Member State.
>
> Costs to which Ireland and the United Kingdom do not contribute in accordance with Article 5 of Protocol No 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, shall be borne by Ireland or the United Kingdom respectively if they make such a request.;

***Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EU) 2017/1370 of the European Parliament and of the Council. (See end of Document for details)*

(2) the Annex is replaced by the image and the text set out in the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

Visa stickers conforming to the specifications set out in the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 and which are applicable until the date referred to in the second paragraph of Article 3 of this Regulation may be used for visas issued during a period of six months after that date.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Member States shall apply this Regulation at the latest 15 months after the adoption of the further technical specifications referred to in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1683/95.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in the Member States in accordance with the Treaties.

Done at Strasbourg, 4 July 2017.

For the European Parliament

The President

A. TAJANI

For the Council

The President

M. MAASIKAS