COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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(OR. fr)

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CORRIGENDUM TO ADDENDUM TO "I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: COREPER /COUNCIL
No. Cion prop.: 5093/05 VISA 1 COMIX 5 CODEC 77
Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Visa Information System (VIS) and the exchange of data between Member States on short-stay visas [first reading]
– Adoption of the legislative act (LA + D)

On pages 3 and 4, the statement by the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Poland on Article 18 should read as follows:

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND ON ARTICLE 18

"The Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Poland confirm their readiness to fully implement the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Visa Information System (VIS) and the exchange of data between Member States on short-stay visas. As frequently used points of entry to the European Union, Slovenia and Poland are aware of their responsibility to carry out border checks in the interest of all the Member States and wish to draw attention to possible consequences of strict implementation of Article 18 of the Regulation."
Article 18 defines the systematic verification of visa stickers and fingerprints of third-country nationals required to hold a visa when entering the Schengen area. However, the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Poland wish to draw attention to technical problems that might arise with mobile fingerprint readers when comparing fingerprints with the central database and problems that arise when fingerprints do not match, even though the identity of a person is correct. For this reason this type of border control will probably result in serious disturbances for international traffic at border-crossing points. Furthermore, the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Poland wish to underline the fact that this Article does not provide for any exemptions, even in cases where it is obvious that certain passengers are bona fide, such as members of official delegations, athletes, cultural and scientific workers and members of families travelling together and the possibility of abuse of visas is excluded.

In light of the above, the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Poland supported the idea raised in Council that after mandatory verification with the number of the visa sticker, border-police officers would have a discretionary right to decide which additional criteria should be used in order to establish the identity of a person during a border check procedure."