



Romanian Parliament
Senate

Bucharest, June 06, 2018

**OPINION
of the Senate**

regarding

the Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code)

- COM(2018)252 final -

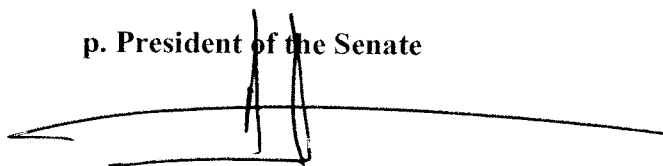
The Romanian Senate examined the Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code) - COM(2018) 252 final - according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no. 2).

Taking into account the report of May 30, 2018 of the permanent Committee for European Affairs, the Plenum of the Senate, during its session of June 04, 2018, ascertains as follows:

1. The Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) 810/2009 on the establishment of a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code) complies with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.
2. The legal basis of the proposal is based on Article 77 (2) (a) of the TFEU.
3. Certifies the validity of the chosen legal form, that of the regulation.
4. This proposal to reform the legal framework of the Visa Information System will further strengthen the security and efficiency of the visa procedure, particularly by:
 - a. applying technological developments and capitalizing on their opportunities for the benefit of Member State authorities and *bona fide* applicants;
 - b. addressing gaps in information in some areas;
 - c. tightening checks on people;
 - d. improving the quality and outcome of the procedure.
5. Supports the proposed changes as they maintain security at the external borders and ensure the smooth functioning of the Schengen area, facilitating the movement of legally travelling passengers.
6. Appreciates the simplification of the legal framework by formulating more flexible rules on consular cooperation.
7. Draws attention to the necessity of applying the principle of visa reciprocity to all EU Member States in relations with third countries.

8. Notes with concern that the United States of America continues to request visas for citizens of some EU Member States (Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, etc.).
9. Stresses once again that the maintenance of Romania outside the Schengen area - since it provides 2.000 km of European Union border and actively participates in the process of reforming the free movement area - feeds anti-European feelings, being perceived as an act of discrimination.
10. Recommends and calls on the European Commission services to reactivate the dialogue with the US in order to respect the principle of visa reciprocity.

p. President of the Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke with a small loop at the end, and a vertical stroke intersecting it near the center.

Adrian ȚUȚUIANU