IBAI

Tuesday, 27th June 2023

INFORMATION	Updates on the Digitalization of Schengen Visa Applications

The European Union (EU) Council and European Parliament provisionally agreed on new rules to digitize visa application procedures in the Schengen area on 13 June 2023. The digitalization of the Schengen visa applications is expected to modernize, simplify, and harmonize the visa procedures for non-EU country nationals who are applying for a visa and for the Member States who need to grant such visas. Therefore, the application procedure can be more efficient and improve the security of the Schengen area.

Currently, the procedure for applying for a Schengen Visa is still relying on paperwork. Moreover, every Member State has different procedures for visa application and only very few members have partial digitalized procedures. Furthermore, current physical visa stickers are also more prone to falsification, fraud, and theft, something which digital visas will significantly improve.

There are 2 (two) main aspects of the visa procedure that will be modernized including the *digitalization of the visa sticker and the digitalization of the visa application.* In particular, this new regulation will provide for:

1. A single EU Online Visa application platform, where visa applicants will be able to apply for a Schengen visa online, including the payment of the same visa fee, regardless of the Schengen country they want to visit.
2. Replacement of the Schengen visa sticker with a digital Schengen visa (encrypted 2D barcode) which will apply also to long-stay visas. It will also be issued by EU countries not yet fully applying the Schengen rules (Bulgaria, Romania, and Cyprus).
3. A transition period of 7 years for Member States to join the platform.

Besides that, later the online visa application platform also will provide various things, including:

a. A secure account (to apply online and receive the decision on their application);
b. Up-to-date information regarding the visa as well as the requirements and procedures;
c. Automatically determine which Schengen country is responsible to examine an application (for applicants who will visit several Member States); and
d. A chatbot that allows applicants to get answers to their questions in a user-friendly way.

According to an official source from the European Parliament, the proposal is expected to be officially approved in September after the legal review. Then, the European IT agency namely Eu-LISA, will set up an EU online Visa application platform and develop the application.

Reference:
- The European Commission Press Release regarding the "Schengen visa: Political agreement on digitalisation of visa application"

If you require a copy of the reference document above, please do not hesitate to contact research@ibai.or.id.
Thank you for your attention and hope this information would be valuable for you

Italian Business Association in Indonesia (IBAI)
c/o Istituto Italiano di Cultura Jakarta
Jl. HOS Cokroaminoto No. 117 Menteng Jakarta 10310 INDONESIA
P: +6281 1979 4262 E: ibai@ibai.or.id

Ibai.or.id   Italian Business Association in Indonesia (IBAI)   IBAI Secretariat   @italy.indonesia