



Brussels, 11.11.2025
C(2025) 7511 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 11.11.2025

**establishing adapted rules on the issuing of multiple-entry visas to Belizean nationals
residing in Belize and applying in Guatemala or Mexico for short-stay visas**

(Only the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German,
Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian,
Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish texts are authentic)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code)¹, and in particular Article 24(2d) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 lays down rules on the issuing of multiple-entry visas. Since no Member State consulate is present in Belize, most visa applications by residents of Belize are lodged and processed at the consulates of the Member States in Guatemala and Mexico. An assesment conducted jointly within local Schengen cooperation in Guatemala and Mexico in accordance with Article 24(2b) of that Regulation concluded that Belizean nationals present very low risk of irregular migration to the Union. Refusals of visas for Belizean nationals have been extremely rare, as have cases of attempted fraud in the Schengen visa procedure and applications for asylum. Furthermore, experience shows that the risk of irregular migration or overstay of Belizean nationals in the Union is very small. Moreover, there are no particular security risks linked to the travel of Belizean nationals to the Union. In view of the above, more favourable rules than those provided for by Article 24(2) of that Regulation should apply in respect of Belizean applicants. This approach improves harmonisation among Member States as regards the visas issued to Belizean nationals. At the same time, it reduces the number of repeated applications, easing the administrative burden both for Belizean travellers and the consulates of the Member States.
- (2) The rules on issuing multiple-entry visas set out in Article 24(2) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 should therefore be adapted in respect of certain visa applications lodged with Member States' consulates in Guatemala and Mexico. These rules should reflect the applicants' reduced risk profile by way of derogation from Article 24(2), points (a), (b) and (c), of that Regulation.
- (3) To minimise any risks related to the travel document, this Decision should only apply to Belizean nationals that hold biometric passports. Belize issues biometric passports since 24 October 2022 and disposes of a modern issuance and control system to enhance their security and efficiency.

¹ OJ L 243, 15.9.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/810/oj>.

- (4) The assessment conducted within the local Schengen cooperation concluded that nationals of other visa-required countries residing in Belize may constitute a higher migratory risk than Belizean nationals. The rules provided for in Article 24(2) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 should continue to apply in respect of these applicants.
- (5) Whilst the objective of the adapted rules set out in this Decision is to ensure a uniform application of those rules by Member States, they should not affect the possibility for Member States, in individual cases, to shorten the validity period of the visa, in accordance with Article 24(2a) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009.
- (6) Given that Denmark decided to implement Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 which builds upon the Schengen *acquis* in its national law, in accordance with Article 4 of Protocol No 22 on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Denmark is bound under international law to implement this Decision.
- (7) This Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* in which Ireland does not take part in accordance with Protocol No 19 on the Schengen *acquis* integrated into the framework of the European Union, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and, subject to the application of Article 4 of that Protocol, Ireland is not bound by it or subject to its application.
- (8) As regards Iceland and Norway, this Decision 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 latter's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*², which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B, of Council Decision 1999/437/EC³.
- (9) As regards Switzerland, this Decision 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*⁴, 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/EC⁵.
- (10) As regards Liechtenstein, this Decision 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

² OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 36, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/1999/439\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/1999/439(1)/oj).

³ Council Decision 1999/437/EC of 17 May 1999 on certain arrangements for the application of the Agreement concluded by the Council of the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the association of those two States with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis* (OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 31, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1999/437/oj>).

⁴ OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 52, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2008/178\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2008/178(1)/oj).

⁵ Council Decision 2008/146/EC of 28 January 2008 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, 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* (OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2008/146/oj>).

the Schengen *acquis*⁶, 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/EU⁷.

- (11) As regards Cyprus, this Decision constitutes an act building upon, or otherwise relating to, the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning of Article 3(2) of the 2003 Act of Accession.
- (12) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 52(1) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

This Decision applies to visa applications for short-stay visas lodged by Belizean nationals, who reside in Belize and hold biometric passports, with Member States' consulates in Guatemala or Mexico (the 'applicant').

Article 2

1. By way of derogation from Article 24(2), points (a), (b) and (c), of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009, provided that the applicants fulfil the entry conditions set out in Article 6(1), points (a), (c), (d) and (e), of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸, multiple-entry visas with a long validity shall be issued for a validity period of five years.
2. Where the validity of the visa would exceed that of the travel document, a multiple-entry visa shall be issued with a period of validity ending three months before the end of validity of the applicant's travel document.

⁶ OJ L 160, 18.6.2011, p. 21, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/prot/2011/349/oj>.

⁷ Council Decision 2011/350/EU of 7 March 2011 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, 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*, relating to the abolition of checks at internal borders and movement of persons (OJ L 160, 18.6.2011, p. 19, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2011/350/oj>).

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of 9 March 2016 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (OJ L 77, 23.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/399/oj>).

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Estonia, the Hellenic Republic, the Kingdom of Spain, the French Republic, the Republic of Croatia, the Italian Republic, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, Romania, the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden.

Done at Brussels, 11.11.2025

For the Commission
Magnus BRUNNER
Member of the Commission

