



Brussels, 8.5.2026
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 8.5.2026

**establishing adapted rules on the issuing of multiple-entry visas to Thai nationals
residing in Thailand and applying in Thailand 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. An assessment conducted within the local Schengen cooperation in Thailand in accordance with Article 24(2b) of that Regulation concluded that Thai nationals pose low migratory risks, which is reflected in Thailand's low visa refusal rate of less than half of the global average. Other migration indicators, such as the number of asylum applicants in the Union or the number of Thai nationals ordered to leave, are low and broadly comparable to countries in the region that are either visa-free, or that benefit from more generous rules on the issuing of multiple-entry visas.
- (2) At the same time, the favourable indicators need to be balanced against the potential migratory risk from part of the Thai population that is facing economic insecurity, which brings risks of engaging in unauthorised employment in the Union or being involved in human trafficking. Hence, risks are higher regarding certain first-time visa applicants, but less so for Thai nationals who have lawfully used previous Schengen visas and travel to the Union regularly. As regards security risks, Thai nationals do not pose a significant security threat to the Union.
- (3) Official reports, such as Europol's Terrorism Situation and Trend Report, do not identify Thailand as a country of concern for external terrorist threats to the Union. Thailand maintains strong cooperation with various international partners on counter-terrorism. Moreover, Thailand's border dispute with Cambodia is largely contained and is not likely to pose any major security or migratory risk to the Union.
- (4) Therefore, more favourable rules than those provided for by Article 24(2) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 should apply in respect of Thai applicants. This approach allows Member States to improve the efficiency of consulates by reducing the frequency of applications, permitting more focus on the examination of those applications most likely to represent a risk.

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

- (5) 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 Thailand. Those rules should reflect the applicants' reduced risk profile by way of derogation from Article 24(2), points (a), (b) and (c), of that Regulation.
- (6) The assessment conducted within the local Schengen cooperation concluded that nationals of other visa-required countries residing in Thailand may constitute a higher migratory risk than Thai nationals. The rules provided for in Article 24(2) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 should therefore continue to apply in respect of those applicants.
- (7) 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, or to issue multiple-entry visas valid for up to five years, in justified cases, in accordance with Article 24(2c) of that Regulation.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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

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² OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 36, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/1999/439\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/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_internation/2008/178\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2008/178(1)/oj).

Decision 1999/437/EC, read in conjunction with Article 3 of Council Decision 2008/146/EC⁵.

- (12) 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 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.
- (13) 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.
- (14) 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 Thai nationals residing in Thailand with Member States' consulates in Thailand (the 'applicant').

Article 2

1. By way of derogation from Article 24(2), points (a), (b) and (c), of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009, where the applicant fulfils 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, a multiple-entry visa shall be issued for the following validity periods, unless the validity of the visa would exceed that of the travel document:
- (a) for a validity period of one year, provided that the applicant has obtained and lawfully used one visa within the previous two years;

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>).

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 (Schengen Borders Code) (OJ L 77, 23.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/399/oj>).

- (b) for a validity period of two years, provided that the applicant has obtained and lawfully used a previous multiple-entry visa valid for one year within the previous three years;
 - (c) for a validity period of five years, provided that the applicant has obtained and lawfully used a previous multiple-entry visa valid for two years within the previous four 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.

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, 8.5.2026

For the Commission
Magnus BRUNNER
Member of the Commission

