



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Deputy Chief of Mission

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Mr Jamal Abdi
Executive Director
NIAC ACTION
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Subject: US Visa Waiver Program Amendments

Dear Mr Abdi,

I would like to thank you for your letter to Ambassador O'Sullivan on the adoption of the "Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015".

As you are well aware, the European Union has made its position clear on the adoption of the legislation, notably by means of an OpEd published on "The Hill" and co-signed by Ambassador O'Sullivan and the Ambassadors of our 28 Member States, which I am attaching to this letter for ease of reference.

We have taken good note of the provisions which affect dual nationals. We continue to believe that European Union citizens who are dual nationals of a proscribed country are disproportionately and unfairly affected by this legislation and therefore closely follow the new legislation introduced by Representative Amash and Senator Flake.

On the issue of the potential EU's response to the recent Visa Waiver Legislation, you are aware that the EU legislation provides for a reciprocity mechanism aiming at ensuring full reciprocal visa-free travel. This mechanism establishes that if by April 2016, the third countries concerned (i.e. visa free countries) have not lifted the visa requirement for all EU citizens, the Commission shall adopt an act temporarily suspending the visa waiver for 12 months for all citizens of those third countries. According to EU law, the last decision will however remain in the hands of the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission will verify the situation by the deadline set up by the Regulation and it is premature to enter into speculations.

Let me take that opportunity to stress that the EU's goal remains to have a fully reciprocal visa waiver arrangement. We will work in that endeavour.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caroline Vicini".

Caroline Vicini