Visas

COMESA

Southern Africa

Support the development of a set of recommendations to address the obstacles related to the full implementation of COMESA Visa Protocol among Member States.

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Requesting entity
COMESA Secretariat

ACP **EU** MIGRATION ACTION

COMESA
Southern Africa

Background

COMESA recognizes the great importance of free trade and recognizes that in order for this to be fully achieved, citizens of COMESA Member States must be able to move freely in the region in order to provide and enhance services, tourism, labour, cultural activities and others. In this regard, the Protocol on the Gradual Relaxation and Eventual Elimination of Visas (Visa Protocol) was established and is in full force since 1984. However, in March 2011, the COMESA Ministers responsible for Immigration noted that the Visa Protocol implementation is still low at 42 percent of the total number of Member States. The support requested via the technical assistance will identify the major obstacles to the full implementation and draw up a set of recommendations and action plan for each Member State on what they can do to implement the Visa protocol.

Objective

Develop a set of recommendations to address the major obstacles faced by COMESA Member States in fully implementing the Visa Protocol.

Activities

Consult with the Member States who have not fully implemented the Protocol and with the COMESA Immigration Unit in order to identify the real obstacles to full implementation of the Protocol;

Develop a set of concrete recommendations for each country on what they can do to implement the protocol, including consultation sessions with the COMESA Secretariat to devise an appropriate strategy to support them for full implementation of the Visa Protocol.

Expected results

Building further upon COMESA's current efforts to promote the importance of free trade and ongoing COMESA advocating for Member States to ensure full implementation of the Protocol on Gradual Relaxation and Eventual Elimination of Visa Requirements.

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