

UNCLASSIFIED 17 STATE 33754

Apr 07, 2017

Subject: 9 FAM UPDATE: ADDITION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION LAISSEZ-PASSER AS VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT

1. SUMMARY: 9 FAM 402.3-4(C) and 9 FAM 403.9-3 have been updated to reflect the Department's acceptance of the European Union's ("EU ") new laissez-passer travel document ("EULP") as a "passport" for visa issuance and travel to the United States. Only A-1, A-2, and G-3 visas may be placed in an EULP for representatives and staff members of the EU traveling for official EU business. END SUMMARY.

2. The EU requested that the United States accept its EULP for visa issuance and travel to the United States. The EULP is a bound booklet in passport format. The cover is dark blue in color and bears the gold embossed seal of the EU. The Department determined that the EULP meets the definition of a passport as defined in INA 101(a)(30). Effective immediately, EU officials traveling on behalf of the EU for official EU business may be issued an appropriate nonimmigrant visa (as described below) and travel to the United States on such visa in their EULP.

3. The only visas that you may place in an EULP are A-1, A-2, or G-3 visas. EU officials traveling on behalf of the EU are classifiable as follows:

- A-1 for EU representatives assigned to the United States for 90 days or more;
- A-2 for EU staff members assigned to the United States for 90 days or more or for EU representatives or staff members on temporary duty (TDY) travel (less than 90 days);
- G-3 for EU representatives or staff members traveling to the EU's Mission to the United Nations, whether on assignment to the EU Mission to the UN or on TDY travel (less than 90 days).

4. In order to issue an A-1, A-2, or G-3 visa in an EULP, post must receive written confirmation from the appropriate EU office indicating the applicant is traveling on official EU business per 9 FAM 402.3-4(C). The period of visa validity should correspond with the reciprocity schedule of the applicant's country of nationality as indicated in the EULP, but may not exceed the validity of the EULP.

5. Based on the authority provided in 22 CFR 41.27(c)(2), the Department authorizes issuance of an official type G-3 visa to qualifying EU officials traveling to the United States on G-3 visas to the EU's Mission to the UN. (Note: Applicants classifiable as A-1 and A-2 qualify for an official type visa under 22 CFR 41.27(c)(1)(ii), and posts should issue official type visas to such applicants.)

6. The updated FAM notes, provided in paragraph 7 of this message, are effective immediately.

7. Begin text of FAM notes:

9 FAM 402.3-4(C) (U) Issuing Visas Only Upon Appropriate Request and In Appropriate Travel Document

f. (U) Travel Documents: An A, C-2, C-3, G, or NATO visa must only be placed in a travel document that meets the definition of a "passport" as defined in INA 101(a)(30). In addition to any passport which has been determined to fulfill the requirements of a "passport" and that is referenced in the appropriate reciprocity schedule, the Department also accepts the following travel documents for issuance of A, C-2, C-3, G, or NATO visas, as described below:

(1) European Union Laissez-Passer (EULP): The EULP is a bound booklet in passport format. The cover is dark blue in color and bears the gold embossed seal of the European Union (EU). Only an official type A-1, A-2, or G-3 visa may be placed in an EULP. The bearer must present a [Form DS-160](#), Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application, and a photograph for visa in connection with the EULP. (See [9 FAM 403.3-4\(A\)](#) for photograph requirements.) You must receive written confirmation from the appropriate EU office indicating that the applicant is traveling on official EU business. The period of visa validity should correspond with the reciprocity schedule of the applicant's country of nationality as indicated in the EULP, but may not exceed the validity of the EULP. (See also 9 FAM 403.9-3(A)(3).)

(2) United Nations Laissez-Passer (UNLP): See 9 FAM 402.3-7(D)(6).

Note: Travel documents issued by international organizations (other than the United Nations as listed above) do not meet the definition of a "passport" as defined in INA 101(a)(30), and therefore, visas must not be placed in these travel documents. Such travel documents include, but are not limited to, the travel documents issued by the Organization of American States (OAS) (see 9 FAM 402.3-7(E)(2)), the World Bank, and INTERPOL. (See also 9 FAM 403.9-3(A)(2).)

9 FAM 403.9-3(A)(3) (U) Travel Documents Issued by the European Union (CT:VISA-184; 09-22-2016)

Only official type A-1, A-2, and G-3 visas may be placed in a European Union Laissez-Passer (EULP). See 9 FAM 402.3-4 for information about placing visas in an EULP.

End text of FAM notes.