



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS
C4 DIRECTORATE JUSTICE,
HOME AFFAIRS AND
SCHENGEN**

June 20, 2012

**PROJECT FOR SHORT STAY TOURIST VISITS
WITH SIMPLIFIED ENTRY PROCEDURES
FOR THIRD COUNTRY - NATIONALS
TRAVELLING FROM TURKEY TO CERTAIN HELLENIC ISLANDS**

Greece has, after consulting the European Commission and in close cooperation with Turkey, prepared an ad hoc project for short stay tourist visits from certain Turkish Aegean coast areas, simplifying entry procedures, to selected Greek islands in the eastern Aegean, for a limited period of time.

The basic scope and objective of the project is to enable third-country nationals to visit Greece through a swift, quick, transparent and easy procedure.

The project is implemented for the period between June 7th and September 30th, 2012 and foresees that visas are issued upon arrival.

The project applies:

❖ to holders of Turkish ordinary travel documents¹ and to any other third country nationals who are subject to the visa obligation, provided that the following proof is provided:

- ⓐ they had not been in a position to apply for a visa in advance;
- ⓑ they submit supporting documents substantiating unforeseeable reasons for entry;
- ⓒ they are legally present in Turkey and their return is assessed as certain.

❖ for visits operated by daily and/or ferry boats and starting from the Turkish ports of Bodrum, Dikili, Foça, Marmaris, Fethiye, Ayvalik, Çeşme and Kuşadası.

❖ for visits to the Greek islands of Chios, Kos, Lesbos, Rhodes, Samos where there is appropriate infrastructure and pertinent numbers of staff and resources are deployed;

❖ for visits of a predetermined and limited duration of time, of 15 days maximum, and for the purpose of tourism.

❖ All persons, making use of the scheme, undergo a thorough check on entry in order to establish their identities on the basis of the production or presentation of their travel documents.

❖ Entry checks cover the following aspects:

- ⓐ Verification of possession of valid and not expired passport;
- ⓑ Examination of the entry and exit stamps on the travel document, in order to verify, whether the maximum duration of authorized stay in the Schengen area has not already been exceeded;

1 Turkish citizens who hold Diplomatic, Service and Special Passports are exempted from the visa requirement by all Member States applying the Schengen Acquis in full.

- ⓐ Verification regarding the purpose of the intended stay;
- ⓑ Confirmation of possession of sufficient means of subsistence for the duration of the intended stay and for the return;
- ⓒ Verification regarding of the fulfilment of the conditions regarding public policy, internal security, public health or international relations of any of the Member States.

✿ The travel documents shall be systematically stamped on entry and exit.

✿ Travel Agents wishing to benefit from the scheme, who operate in the Turkish cities of Bodrum, Dikili, Foça, Marmaris, Fethiye, Ayvalik, Çeşme and Kuşadası, request travellers, upon purchase of their tickets, to submit a copy of the bio-page of their passport and a filled in and signed copy of the Schengen Visa application form with a recent photo attached.

✿ The Travel Agents forward the documents, submitted together with the purchase of the boat tickets, to the designated Greek Authorities, electronically, at least 24 hours before the arrival of the passenger concerned.

✿ Travellers who have submitted their documentation through Travel Agents, at least 24 hours before their arrival, are requested upon disembarkation to the Greek islands of Chios, Kos, Lesbos, Rhodes or Samos to follow the priority lane and present to the border guard authorities their passport and the original filled in and signed Schengen Visa application form with an attached recent colour photo, produce documentation proving the purpose of their visit and its duration, explain the reasons that they had not been in a position to apply for a visa in advance and pay the visa fee, if applicable.

✿ Travellers that have NOT submitted their documentation through Travel Agents, or have NOT submitted their documentation at least 24 hours before arrival, are requested, upon disembarkation to the Greek islands of Chios, Kos, Lesbos, Rhodes or Samos, to follow the normal lane and present to the border guard authorities their passport and a filled in and signed Schengen Visa application form with an attached recent colour photo, produce documentation proving the purpose of their visit and its duration, explain the reasons that they had not been in a position to apply for a visa in advance and pay the visa fee, if applicable.

✿ Upon verification that the entry conditions are fully met, a uniform visa², allowing for one entry and stay of maximum 15 days, will be issued and an entry stamp will be affixed to the travel document.

✿ In case the entry conditions are not fulfilled the entry will be refused and a completed standard form for refusing entry stating the reason(s) for refusal shall be given to the person concerned, who shall acknowledge receipt of the decision to refuse entry by means of that form.

This pilot project is implemented during the current tourist season and, upon completion, it will be evaluated for its overall impact on the EU-Turkish relations especially on the mobility and illegal migration dimensions.

Greece will then draw up a detailed report covering all dimensions of the scheme and will submit it for consideration to the European Commission and the Member States.

2 'In case of nationals of specific third countries or specific categories of such nationals subject to the prior consultation procedure, the visa, if issued, is of limited territorial validity