

INFORMATION NOTE

on the application of

Regulation EU No 265/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement and Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 as regards movement of persons with a long-stay visa

The Regulation aims at facilitating the circulation within the Schengen area without internal borders of third-country nationals legally residing in one of the Member States on the basis of a long-stay "D" visa issued by that Member State.

The Regulation enters into force on 5 April 2010, which means that from that date

- **All valid long-stay visas will allow for free circulation in the Schengen area for three months in a six month-period.** A third-country national holding a long-stay D visa issued by a Member State will be allowed to travel to the other Member States for three months in any half year, under the same conditions as the holder of a residence permit. In accordance with the Regulation, **this rule also applies to long-stay visas already issued before 5 April 2010, including still valid D+C visas;**
- Member States are allowed to **issue long-stay visas for a maximum period of validity of one year.**