



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 28 May 2009  
10442/09 (Presse 156)

**EU signs visa waiver agreements with Antigua and Barbuda,  
the Bahamas, Barbados, Mauritius, Saint Kitts and Nevis and  
the Seychelles**

Today took place the ceremony of the signature of six agreements on a short-stay visa waiver between the European Union and, respectively, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Mauritius, Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Seychelles, in the EU Council premises in Brussels.

The agreements were signed by

Helena BAMBASOVÁ, Czech Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and president-in-office of the Council of the EU and

Jacques BARROT, vice-president of the Commission with responsibility for justice, freedom and security matters,

on the EU side; and

**P R E S S**

Carl ROBERTS, High commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom

Paul Farquharson, Ambassador and head of the Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the European Communities

Maxine McCLEAN, Minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade of Barbados

Sutiawan GUNESSE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mauritius

Barry FAURE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Seychelles

James E. Williams, High commissioner for St. Christopher and Nevis to the United Kingdom.

The new visa regime provides for visa-free travel for EU citizens<sup>1</sup> when travelling to the territory of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Mauritius, Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Seychelles and for citizens of these six countries when travelling to the EU, for a period of stay not exceeding three months during a six-month period.

For benefiting from visa-free travel, citizens from the EU and the six countries concerned must be in possession of valid ordinary, diplomatic or service/official passport.

Visa-free travel applies to all categories of persons and for any kind of purposes of travel (*for instance tourism, cultural visits, scientific activities, family visits, business etc.*), except to persons travelling for the purpose of carrying out a paid activity.

The EU and the six countries will apply on a provisional basis the visa waiver agreements as from 28 May 2009, pending completion of the procedures for their formal conclusion.

---

<sup>1</sup> Ireland and the United Kingdom will not be subject to the application of the agreements, in accordance with the protocols annexed to the EU treaties. The visa regime to these Member States remains subject to their national legislation.

Following negotiations with these countries, the European Commission submitted last February proposals for the signing and provisional application of the agreements and, on 6 April 2009, the Council adopted the decisions authorizing the signing and provisional application of the agreements with Antigua and Barbuda ([7514/09](#)), the Bahamas ([7522/09](#)), Barbados ([7518/09](#)), Mauritius ([7520/09](#)), Saint Kitts and Nevis ([7528/09](#)) and the Seychelles ([7526/09](#)).

---