

Local

European Parliament to discuss visa liberalization for Kuwait

EU ambassadors take first step by approving negotiating mandate

BRUSSELS: Preparatory work is underway in the European Parliament for the negotiations to start with the Council of Ministers on lifting of Schengen visa for Kuwaiti citizens, European Parliament sources said Thursday. EU ambassadors Wednesday approved the negotiating mandate for the EU Council of Ministers on the lifting of Schengen visa for Kuwait. On the basis of this mandate, the Council which represents the 27 EU states, will start negotiations with the European Parliament.

"At the moment, preparatory work is underway,

which was the first step in the European Parliament procedure, said the sources. It will now first be discussed by the European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee for its approval, before discussions and vote in the full European Parliament, noted the sources.

First step

European Union ambassadors had on Wednesday approved the negotiating mandate for the EU Council of Ministers on the liberalization of short-stay Schengen visas for Kuwait and Qatar. On the basis of this mandate, the EU presidency will start negotiations with the European Parliament, said an EU statement. Czech Republic takes over the rotating EU Presidency from France on July 1. The Council, which represents the 27 EU member states, confirmed the EU Commission's proposal to provide for visa-free travel for the citizens of these two Gulf countries when travelling to the EU for a maximum duration of 90 days per 180-day period.

"The Council thus took the first step towards visa liberalization with Kuwait and Qatar, which should apply after the conclusion of bilateral agreements with these countries, in particular to ensure that full reciprocity of this exemption for EU citizens is maintained," it noted. The entry into force of the exemption should also take place after the effective entry into operation of the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS), scheduled for 2023.

In its negotiating mandate, the Council stressed



that particular attention should also be paid to regional coherence, notably with a view to strengthening people-to-people contacts and travel between the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. It therefore called on the

European Commission to proceed rapidly to the assessment of the situation of these countries against the benchmarks with a view to exempting the other GCC member states from the visa requirement. — KUNA



Official discussions likely to start after August 29

but there isn't yet a date for the next official steps. Most probably these will be discussed after the summer recess, when the Parliament's legislative work continues on August 29," the sources told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

The visa liberalization proposals for Kuwait was made by the European Commission on April 27 and announced in the European Parliament in May,

Kuwait expects 542,161 passengers during Eid holiday

KUWAIT: Departures and arrivals to and from Kuwait International Airport during Eid Al-Adha holiday, which falls between July 7 and July 16, are expected to be around 542,161 passengers, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said Thursday. DGCA General Director Yousef Al-Fouzan stated to the press that total flights during said period will be around 3,484 flights. He explained that the total of arriving flights carrying 285,155 passengers will reach 1,737, whereas departing flights, carrying 257,006 passengers, will amount to 1,747 flight. Fouzan indicated that the most popular travel destinations are Cairo, Dubai, Istanbul, Doha and Jeddah. He further affirmed the direc-



Yousef Al-Fouzan

torate's readiness for the Eid holiday and summer season, commending the cooperation of other government bodies. — KUNA

Kuwait Oil Minister touts OPEC+ success in managing oil markets

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil Dr Mohammad Al-Fares said Thursday the OPEC+ alliance succeeded in managing the oil markets through a larger production increase than planned during July and August 2022. Fares made the remark in a press release, issued by the Ministry of Oil, after heading Kuwait's delegation partaking in 42nd Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMCC) and 30th OPEC+ meetings, held via video conferencing. He said this decision contributed to calming markets and showing the strength of

the alliance in a collective decision to ensure the security of supply. He stressed that OPEC has fully succeeded in meeting the needs of the oil market by pumping more oil in line with high levels of demand.

The minister added the OPEC+ agreement calls for an increase in the production of member states by 648,000 barrels per day in August, praising the role of OPEC+ in market stability and supply security, and the alliance is a key element in the market balance that must be maintained for the market's benefit. Fares highlighted that



KUWAIT: Minister of Oil Dr Mohammad Al-Fares heads Kuwait's delegation partaking in 42nd Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMCC) and 30th OPEC+ meetings, held via video conferencing Thursday. — KUNA

Kuwait's quota production will rise up to 2.811 million, while stressing Kuwait's full commitment to the agreed production quotas. This will enable countries to continue regain large part of their production levels achieved pre COVID-19 at the beginning of 2020, he said. The Kuwaiti oil

minister's delegation comprised Governor of the State of Kuwait to OPEC Muhammad Al-Shatti and National Representative of the State of Kuwait to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Salem Hamoud Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Kuwait participates in int'l civil aviation symposium

KUWAIT: Kuwait, represented by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), participated in the Global implementation support symposium organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Istanbul, Turkey recently.

Kuwait's delegation was headed by DGCA Deputy Director General for Aviation Safety, Air Transport and Civil Aviation Security Duaj Khalaf Al-Otaibi, Director of Aviation Safety Hussam Al-Rasheed, and Director of the Technical Office Marzouq Al-Shareefi.

Otaibi met on the sidelines of the

symposium with ICAO Secretary General Juan Carlos and discussed cooperation between Kuwait and the organization. Several issues related to air safety and aviation security were also discussed.

Juan Carlos commended Kuwait's development projects to upgrade the infrastructure at Kuwait International Airport, particularly the building of the new T2 terminal with a capacity of 25 million passengers per year. He also lauded the efforts of DGCA under the Chairmanship of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.



KUWAIT: Photos showing vehicles driving through heavy dust in Mutlaa on Thursday. Local authorities advise motorists to exert extra cautious while driving in open areas over the weekend when heavy dust is expected to cause drop in visibility. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

