



Ad-Hoc Query on accommodation requirements for short-stay visa

Requested by FR EMN NCP on 18th April 2014

Compilation produced on 14th May 2014

Responses requested from [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Italy](#), [Netherlands](#), [Spain](#), [United Kingdom](#) (8 in Total)

Disclaimer: The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

1. Background Information

French authorities are considering the possibility of removing the requirement of presenting confirmation of hotel booking when third-country nationals apply for short-term visa to come to France. That is why the French Ministry of Interior is interested in gathering information on the rules and practices in some other EU MS regarding **accommodation requirements** when TCNs apply for short-stay visa.






Question:

Do your national authorities check accommodation conditions and, in case of hotel stay, require TCNs to provide confirmation of hotel booking, when they apply for a short-stay visa to come to your MS or do they just verify if TCNs are able to pay for accommodation? Please indicate if such checks are conducted at the time of visa application process or when controlling TCNs at the external border crossing point.

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We would very much appreciate your responses by **Friday 25th April 2014**.

2. Responses

		Wider Dissemination?	
	Austria	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Belgium	Yes	<p>Belgian authorities, both at the time of visa application and border crossing, ask third-country nationals applying for short stay visa to inter alia and cumulatively provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation related documents. For example the third country national who declares to stay at a private address can submit an invitation letter from the host person. In the case he/she stays in a hotel/guest house, confirmation of booking is required. <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents attesting sufficient means of subsistence or declaration of liability covering the costs of the stay (50 Euros/day if staying in hotel/guest house – 38 Euros/day if staying at private address). <p>In some cases, Belgian authorities call hotels for which a confirmation of booking is submitted to check whether the booking hasn't in the meantime been cancelled. This occurs on a case-by-case basis, for example when suspecting "visa shopping" (previous applications refused by other EU Member States).</p>
	France	Yes	French consulates, at the time of visa application process, and the border police, when controlling TCNs at the external Schengen border crossing points, ask them to provide proof of accommodation: accommodation certificate in case of private housing or confirmation of hotel booking in case of hotel stay.
	Germany	Yes	For the purpose of applying for a short stay (Schengen) visa the German embassies and consulates require TCNs to provide a proof of accommodation (be that private or hotel). At the external Schengen border crossing points German Federal Police ask TCN's to provide proof of accommodation: accommodation certificate in case of private housing or confirmation of hotel booking in case of hotel stay. Furthermore the validity of existing hotel reservations will be verified in cases of doubts.
	Italy	Yes	As a rule, aliens applying for visas must visit the Italian diplomatic or consular offices in person to be interviewed on the reasons and circumstances of the visit. Applications must be accompanied by a valid travel document (on which it is materially possible to appose the visa), and the following documentation that must state: the purpose of the visit; means of transport and return; means of support during travel and sojourn; <i>accommodation arrangements</i> . As regards accommodation arrangements, applicants may indicate different types of accommodation depending on the reasons why they are applying for a visa. Stating the hotel where applicants are staying is mandatory only if applicants enter the country for <i>tourism</i> . In this case, hotel confirmation must be provided at the time of visa application process : hotel booking being a condition for obtaining the visa in this case.

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	Netherlands	Yes	<p>The Netherlands just follows the rules and practices as prescribed by the Visa Code. Art. 14.1(b) states that "(...) the applicant shall present (...) documents in relation to accommodation, or proof of sufficient means to cover his accommodation."</p> <p>Which by the way is also a requirement for border crossing.</p> <p>This is further elaborated in Art. 14.4 of the Visa Code.</p> <p>So the Netherlands does not have any experience with not demanding these documents.</p> <p>In general, our policy makers are of the opinion that discussions on the possibility or desirability of any proposed amendments of the Visa Code should not take place within the EMN. The Council Working Group on the Visa Code is the right place for any such negotiations.</p>
	Spain	Yes	<p>Diplomatic missions and Spanish Consulates abroad, at the time of short-stay visa application procedures for TCNs, ask them to provide proof of accommodation.</p> <p>Afterwards, TCNs at the external Schengen border, should provide to the border police proof of accommodation in the form of a confirmation of hotel booking in case of lodging or hotel stay or, in the form of a letter of invitation issued by a citizen that would serve as a proof of accommodation for the TCN.</p>
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p>The UK requires any third-country national who applies to come to the UK on a visitor visa to provide evidence that he/she has sufficient funds to maintain and accommodate themselves and any family members with them during their stay in the UK.</p> <p>To this end, the Home Office establishes what level of funds the visitor has available to them, and whether this is enough to cover their expenses for the duration of their stay as part of considering their application at the relevant diplomatic post or port of arrival. The visitor is also asked to state what their plans are and the duration of their stay, and what arrangements they have made for their accommodation. It is not a requirement for a visitor to have booked accommodation. However, a hotel booking is cited as evidence that can be provided to satisfy the maintenance and accommodation requirement. The emphasis of our scrutiny is that they have sufficient funds to support themselves whilst in the UK.</p> <p>In cases where the visitor is dependent on a sponsor to provide accommodation or financial support the Home Office establishes that the sponsor is legally present in the UK, what the nature of their relationship with the visitor is and whether he/she has sufficient funds to adequately support themselves and anyone normally dependent on them, as well as the visitor they are offering to sponsor. If a sponsor is providing accommodation they are required to confirm that there is enough room to adequately house the visitor and any existing residents.</p>
