

Towards and Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

LOCAL BORDER TRAFFIC

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LOCAL BORDER TRAFFIC (LBT)

- **Draft Council and EP Regulation not yet formally adopted**
- **Political agreement on the content/substance of the Regulation**
- **Formal adoption foreseen in March/April**

PURPOSE OF THE (DRAFT) LBT REGULATION

- **Establish Community rules on local border traffic at external land borders (no rules so far)**
- **Authorise Member States to conclude or maintain bilateral agreements for the purpose of implementing the common regime**
- **Facilitate border crossing to border residents without creating loopholes/affecting security**

LBT – SOME KEY NOTIONS

- **Local border traffic** : regular crossing of the external land border of a Member State by border residents, for a stay in the border area based on social, cultural or economic grounds
- **Border area** : 30 km maximum (exceptionally 50)
- **Border residents** : persons residing in the border area of a country neighbouring a Member State for a period of at least one year (exceptions possible)

THE LBT REGIME (I)

- **Establishment of a ‘local border traffic permit’ (LBTP) :**
 - **validity : 1 to 5 years**
 - **may be issued free of charge**
 - **to be issued either by consulates or other administrative authorities**
 - **valid only for stays in the border area**

THE LBT REGIME(II)

- **Facilitation of border crossing :**
 - **less systematic checks on holders of LBTP (no stamping)**
 - **specific BCPs/lanes for border residents**
 - **in exceptional cases, authorisation to cross the border outside BCPs**

THE LBT REGIME (III)

- **To prevent abuses:**
 - **sanctions to be imposed by Member States for any misuse (withdrawal of the LBTP)**
 - **Member States to maintain regular surveillance and carry out random checks in border areas**
 - **Commission to submit a report after two years (possibility to propose modifications)**