

monthly newsletter

WHAT'S NEW IN GLOBAL MOBILITY & IMMIGRATION

October 2023



Dear Readers,

Here is our latest edition of What's New in Global Mobility & Immigration. As always, we are here to keep our finger on the pulse and support you in all immigration issues.

We also recommend that you follow PCS | Littler on social media to keep up to date with all relevant immigration news.

Enjoy your reading and please get in touch if you have any questions.

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EXTENSION OF EU TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR UKRAINIANS

The Council of the European Union has decided to extend temporary protection for people fleeing the Russian-Ukrainian conflict to EU countries until 4 March 2025. The decision has not yet been formally accepted, but it should happen in the coming weeks.



We expect that, as a result, the Polish law on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of that country will also be amended. Thus, the right to remain legally in Poland will be extended from 4 March 2024 to 4 March 2025 for most Ukrainians staying in Poland, including not only war refugees but also holders of visas, temporary residence permits and others, whose documents expired after 24 February 2022.

CONTRACT TERMINATION FOR VISA CENTRES HANDLING POLISH VISA APPLICATIONS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has decided to terminate contracts with third-party visa service providers handling the Polish visa application process in Ukraine, Belarus, China, India, the Philippines and Turkey.

It will most likely bring significant changes to the process of obtaining Polish visas in these countries, including a considerable increase in the visa issuance waiting time. Contracts with visa service providers are to be terminated gradually, subject to the contractual notice periods.

As a result, at the end of September, it was announced that contracts with visa service providers in India were terminated, and they could no longer handle visa applications. From 26 September until further notice, all applications for Polish visas and appeals in Polish visa cases in India will only be accepted at official diplomatic missions, namely the Embassy of Poland in New Delhi or the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Mumbai.



At the same time, the Embassy of Poland in New Delhi entered into a new contract with a third-party visa service provider at the beginning of October. Hopefully, it means that the Polish authorities will not stop using the external providers altogether, at least not until the number of diplomatic staff of the Polish missions is increased.

BORDER CHECKS WITH SLOVAKIA AND GERMANY

The Polish government has decided to reintroduce border controls with Slovakia for some time. At the same time, the German government is also considering bringing back temporary border checks with Poland and Czechia.



Reintroducing border controls does not mean border closure or any restriction of border-crossing rights. Non-nationals whose passports entitle them to travel within the Schengen area under a visa-free travel program and holders of visa or residence cards recognised by the Schengen countries will continue to have the right to cross the border. However, they may suffer some inconveniences of border control.

Notably, non-UE nationals should be particularly careful with travel-planning and make sure their documents permit them to travel within the Schengen area. They should bear in mind that not every document legalising their stay in Poland automatically gives them the right to travel.

GLOBAL MOBILITY&IMMIGRATION

We advise on all global workforce mobility matters, including immigration, tax and social security issues. Our practical solutions are based on years of experience.

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