

monthly newsletter

# WHAT'S NEW IN GLOBAL MOBILITY & IMMIGRATION

December 2023



## Dear Readers,

Here is the final edition of our newsletter, What's New in Global Mobility & Immigration, for 2023.

As the festive season is rapidly approaching, our team would like to extend their warmest wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Merry reading, and please get in touch if you have any questions.

**Karolina Schiffter**, advocate, partner

**Ewa Wysocka**, trainee attorney-at-law, lawyer

## CHANGES TO VISA APPLICATION RULES IN INDIA

In an effort to streamline the visa application process, the Polish Embassy in New Delhi has announced that, effective 1st December, all visa applications from within its consular district will be accepted through five VFS Global visa centres located in Delhi, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Jaipur, and Lucknow. Similar measures are being implemented by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Mumbai to increase their visa processing capabilities.



These new arrangements, available thanks to new agreements signed with VFS Global, should streamline the notoriously slow process of issuing Polish visas in India.

## NEW MINIMUM WAGE LEVEL FOR WORKERS POSTED TO POLAND

New minimum monthly wage thresholds for employees posted to Poland based on work permits have been effective since 20th November 2023. These new thresholds vary depending on the processing office, ranging from PLN 3,799.47 gross in the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Province to the highest of PLN 5,255.99 gross in the Mazowieckie Province.

Overseas businesses whose employees are currently employed in Poland with a work permit must ensure that employee pay is in line with the new minimum wage thresholds. Additionally, complying with the minimum wage is essential when applying for a new work permit for a posted worker in Poland.

## VISA SCANDAL INVESTIGATION

Parliament's new majority has put forward a bill for the legislative committee to establish an investigative commission to look into the visa scandal (the investigative commission to scrutinise the legality, compliance, and efficiency of actions taken, as well as any instances of abuse, negligence, or omissions in the legalisation of non-national stay in Poland between 1st January 2019 and 20th November 2023).

The investigation will focus on allegations of making facilitation payments to speed up visa proceedings, coercing Polish diplomats to issue visas to selected individuals, and irregularities in the issuance of work permits.



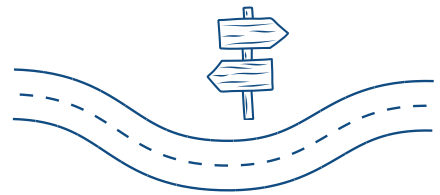
We expect that this investigation, coupled with heightened media scrutiny, will result in a more meticulous and rigorous approach to visa issuance procedures by consulates. This will involve a comprehensive assessment of submitted documentation, with a particular focus on verifying the legitimacy of the proposed employment for a particular non-national in Poland.

The issue of possible irregularities in visa application processing, as well as work permits and other documents legalising the residence and work of non-nationals, is also the subject of parliamentary inspections and debates. Immigration issues may be one of the more frequently discussed topics in the coming months.

## POLISH-SLOVAK BORDER CHECKS CONTINUE

Checks at the Polish-Slovak border have been extended until at least 2nd January 2024. These checks were initially introduced on 4th October this year to address the threat of illegal border crossings on the Balkan route.

According to Polish authorities, the problem has not yet been effectively dealt with, necessitating the extension of border controls. Foreign nationals planning to cross the Polish-Slovak border are advised to carefully check the validity of any required documents and whether they are allowed 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.

Contact:

### Karolina Schiffter

advocate, partner  
karolina.schiffter@pcslegal.pl  
+48 506 745 523

### Tomasz Rogala

attorney-at-law, partner  
tomasz.rogala@pcslegal.pl  
+ 48 698 184 499

### Ewa Wysocka

trainee attorney-at-law, lawyer  
ewa.wysocka@pcslegal.pl  
+48 664 936 793