

monthly newsletter

# WHAT'S NEW IN GLOBAL MOBILITY & IMMIGRATION

February 2024



## Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter, "What's New in Global Mobility & Immigration"! We are always on top of the latest developments to help you navigate the complexities of employing and legalising foreign workers in Poland.

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

**Karolina Schiffter**, advocate, partner

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

## POLAND. BUSINESS HARBOUR PROGRAMME ON HOLD

Participation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Poland. Business Harbour programme has been suspended by Foreign Affairs Minister Radosław Sikorski. It means that no new visa applications are being processed at the moment.



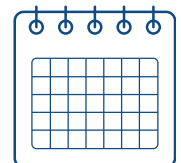
Employers relying on the program need to find alternative ways to legalise the employment of their prospective employees. They will now need to go through the standard process for obtaining a work permit and then an appropriate visa.

The official announcement states the program is temporarily on hold until solutions are in place to ensure better verification of companies and non-nationals who are beneficiaries of the programme. Unfortunately, there is no word yet on when or how the program might return.

## UKRAINIAN EMERGENCY LAW AMENDMENT: STAY AND WORK RIGHTS EXTENDED TO 30 JUNE 2024

The government published a draft amendment to the Act on Assistance to Ukrainian Citizens in Connection with the Armed Conflict on the Territory of that country, commonly referred to as the Ukrainian Emergency Law. The amended law will extend special immigration solutions for Ukrainians until 30th June 2024.

The proposed law extends residency rights for most Ukrainian citizens in Poland until 30th June 2024, including those whose permits expired after 24th February 2022 and those who arrived due to the conflict in Ukraine and hold the temporary "UKR status".



The law also extends the option for employers to easily employ Ukrainians through online notifications on the [praca.gov.pl](https://praca.gov.pl) platform, a system introduced by the emergency law. This simplified process will now be available until 30th June 2024.

While extending the current temporary measures, the government is also working on major changes to the emergency law. They are proposing to extend its validity until 4th March 2025, as recommended by the European Union. This overhaul of the law will happen alongside the current amendment and will involve consulting various stakeholders like local governments, NGOs, and public institutions to address the complex nature of the Act.

## POLISH MIGRATION STRATEGY FOR 2025-2030 IN THE WORKS

The Ministry of Interior and Administration has officially started developing a comprehensive migration strategy for Poland, covering the next five years (2025-2030). The project is to be completed by the end of this year to pave the way for a new law on non-nationals in 2025. The strategy aims to be a roadmap for all institutions and entities involved in managing immigration in Poland, ensuring a coordinated and effective approach.

The Ministry's initiative to create a comprehensive migration strategy is certainly ambitious and welcome. It is encouraging to see the authorities tackling the complex issue of migration head-on. However, one key question remains: will the new regulations address the employment of non-nationals, a crucial aspect of migration policy currently under the Ministry of Labour's purview and seemingly absent from the outlined work plan? This is a key aspect of the overall migration policy that should not be overlooked.

## NEW VISA CODES FOR THE POLE'S CARD HOLDERS

Starting from February, the visa code used for the Pole's Card holders has changed from "18" to "23".



This change aims to shield these individuals from potential discrimination by Belarusian authorities who often target Polish-identifying citizens with repression and border crossing difficulties.

Notably, the new code does not affect the rights granted by the Pole's Card or the process of obtaining a national visa based on it.

## 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