

monthly newsletter

WHAT'S NEW IN GLOBAL MOBILITY & IMMIGRATION

November 2024



Dear Readers,

We are delighted to bring you the latest edition of our newsletter, "What's New in Global Mobility & Immigration".

Recent plans for changes to Polish immigration law have sparked widespread discussion among employers, global mobility specialists, and the mainstream media. We are following these developments closely to keep you informed about the most important topics and trends.

To stay up-to-date with the latest immigration news, we encourage you to follow our law firm's social media profiles.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Karolina Schiffter, advocate, partner

Ewa Wysocka, attorney-at-law, lawyer

IMMIGRATION LAW AMENDMENTS POSTPONED

The analysis of the Sejm's work schedule indicates that the planned amendments to the conditions of employment for non-nationals in Poland (including mandatory employment contracts for certain groups), will not enter into force on 1st January 2025. These amendments include the Act on the admissibility conditions for giving work to non-nationals in the Republic of Poland and the Act on the amendment of certain acts to eliminate irregularities in the Polish visa system.

The most likely date for the planned changes to take effect is spring 2025. Further discussions and potential changes to the proposed laws are expected.



ONLINE RESIDENCE APPLICATIONS

Polish authorities are revisiting the idea of streamlining residence procedures for non-nationals with online applications. A draft amendment to the Act on Non-nationals, announced on 8th November, proposes using online applications through the MOS platform and login.gov.pl website.

However, the current plan still requires a mandatory in-person visit to an office for fingerprint submission and identity verification. While the draft represents a step towards streamlining the procedures and clearing the backlog of residence applications in Provincial Governor's Offices, the full benefits might not be realized until the in-person requirement is revisited.



NO MORE EXEMPTIONS FOR POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

Recent plans aim to eliminate the exemption from Polish language proficiency tests for non-nationals who hold post-secondary school graduation certificates. Currently, this certificate can be used to fulfill language requirements for certain residency processes.



Polish authorities argue that this some non-nationals have exploited this system, using post-secondary education solely as a means to facilitate their stay in Poland, while some post-secondary schools enabled them to do so.

The restriction on the use of a post-secondary school certificate in the process of applying for Polish citizenship is likely to come into force in spring 2025, and for the residence processes of a long-term EU resident - on 1 July 2025.

Furthermore, the government intends to remove post-secondary school graduates from the list of non-nationals exempt from work permit requirements. This change is also likely to come into force in spring 2025.

INCREASED FEES FOR POLISH CITIZENSHIP

The Ministry of Interior and Administration has announced plans to amend Polish citizenship regulations. One of the proposed changes is increasing the fees for citizenship applications. Currently, there is no fee for applying to the President of the Republic of Poland for citizenship. However, under the new regulations, a fee of PLN 1,000 will be required for applications to recognize or restore Polish citizenship. Additionally, a fee of PLN 1,669 will be charged for applications to the President of the Republic of Poland for granting Polish citizenship.

The statutory processing time for citizenship applications will also be extended to six months. These changes, combined with the planned restrictions on using post-secondary school certificates as proof of Polish language proficiency, will make it more difficult for some non-nationals to obtain Polish citizenship.



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

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