

monthly newsletter

WHAT'S NEW IN GLOBAL MOBILITY & IMMIGRATION

January 2025



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first 2025 edition of our newsletter, "What's New in Global Mobility & Immigration". The new year brings about a host of changes and updates in immigration law and global mobility. We have curated the most important developments for your consideration.

To stay abreast of the latest immigration news, we encourage you to follow our law firm on social media.

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

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WORK ON CHANGES TO IMMIGRATION LAW HAS STARTED

Following the Christmas break, legislative proposals for significant amendments to Polish immigration law were submitted to the Sejm. These include amendments to 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, and the Non-nationals Act amending provisions related to the Blue Card.

This development suggests that the planned entry into force of these changes in spring 2025 remains entirely feasible. The proposed amendments are expected to introduce substantial modifications to the existing rules governing the employment and legal stay of non-nationals in Poland. We will discuss the most significant of these proposed changes separately.



GOVERNMENT ABANDONS PLANS FOR MANDATORY EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS FOR NON-NATIONALS

The most recent version of the bill on the admissibility conditions for giving work to non-nationals in the Republic of Poland, submitted to the Sejm for consideration, no longer includes the controversial provision mandating employment of non-nationals solely under employment contracts. This represents a significant withdrawal from a proposal that had drawn widespread criticism.



However, the obligation to employ non-nationals under employment contracts has not been entirely removed. Notably, the bill retains this requirement for temporary employment agencies, which is likely an oversight that will be corrected in further stages of the legislative process.

CASH-FOR-VISAS SCANDAL: PHILIPPINES EDITION

Polish businesses operating in the Philippines have raised concerns about ongoing bribery allegations surrounding visa appointments at Polish diplomatic missions in the country. These claims surface despite the exposure of a visa scandal linked to the previous government. The case has made headlines in the Philippines, with the country's largest intervention programme taking up the story.

This latest revelation underscores the critical need for a comprehensive overhaul of the visa application process. While some Polish consulates have resorted to stricter visa criteria, this approach alone is insufficient to combat corruption. Effective visa policy requires transparent, clear, and well-defined procedures, rather than simply imposing stricter rules.

POLISH CONSULATE GENERAL IN ST. PETERSBURG CLOSED DOWN

On 8th January 2025, the Consulate-General of the Republic of Poland in St. Petersburg was officially closed after more than 50 years of operation. This closure followed Russia's withdrawal of consent for the consulate's continued functioning, a retaliatory measure in response to the Polish government's earlier closure of the Russian Consulate-General in Poznań.



According to a statement issued by the Polish Embassy in Moscow, the consular district of the former St. Petersburg consulate has been integrated into the jurisdiction of the Polish Embassy in Moscow on 12th December 2024.

Poland maintains a diplomatic presence in Russia through its embassy in Moscow and consulates-general in Kaliningrad and Irkutsk.

BULGARIA AND ROMANIA ARE FULL MEMBERS OF THE SCHENGEN AREA

Bulgaria and Romania became full members of the Schengen Area on 1st January 2025. These countries have already participated in the Schengen Area for air and sea traffic since 31st March 2024. This full membership signifies the removal of border controls for land traffic.

The full accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the Schengen Area is subject to certain conditions. To ensure security, border controls between Hungary and Romania, and between Romania and Bulgaria will continue for at least six months following this full integration on 1st January.

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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