



Immigration News Highlights

Issue 02 – 11 January 2022



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below.



Americas

Mexico

Mexico formally announces new visa requirements for Venezuelans

Mexico formally announced its new visa requirements for visitors from Venezuela in the government's official gazette, as part of the country's efforts to tighten entry restrictions for Venezuelan nationals. [Read more](#)

US

Controversial H-1B rule change scrapped

A controversial change to the rule that would have hindered international students seeking work in the United States after graduating has officially been scrapped. [Read more](#)



Asia Pacific

Bangladesh

Regular migration to Greece: Doors open next month

Migrant workers from Bangladesh may soon be able to go to Greece by legal means as the two countries are expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding. [Read more](#)

China

Maldives, China ink key deals, agree on visa exemption

Maldives and China signed key bilateral agreements on developing and maintaining infrastructure in the Indian Ocean archipelago, besides agreeing on a visa-free travel arrangement for Maldivians intending to travel to China. [Read more](#)

China

China extends Income Tax Preferential Policies for Foreign Individuals

China's Ministry of Finance and State Administration of Taxation have jointly issued Announcement No. 43 of 2021, which extends the income tax preferential policies for foreign individuals. [Read more](#)

Hong Kong

Hong Kong bans flights from UK and France for two weeks

The Chinese region's chief executive announced the move which will stop all flights from the UK, France, US, Australia, Canada, India, Pakistan and the Philippines from Saturday, 8 January, to 21 January. [Read more](#)

India

7-day home quarantine mandatory for all international arrivals in India, Covid test on 8th: Govt

India made seven-day home quarantine mandatory for all international arrivals and an RT-PCR test on the eighth day, as it issued revised guidelines for international passengers. [Read more](#)

India

[E-passports to be rolled out soon for smoother immigration passage](#)

India will soon introduce next-generation e-passport for its citizens which will comprise of secure biometric data and ensure smooth passage through immigration posts globally. [Read more](#)

Israel

[Israel, in U.S. visa talks, eyes easing access for Palestinian-Americans](#)

Israel is prepared to permit Palestinian-American dual nationals to transit its territory as part of an emerging U.S. visa waiver deal for its citizens. [Read more](#)

Israel

[New 'Citizenship Law' advances, months after ban on Palestinian spouses lapsed](#)

Cabinet ministers gave first-stage approval to a bill that would again bar Palestinians who marry Israelis from receiving permits to live with their spouses in Israel, months after an earlier ban expired following a dramatic coalition fight. [Read more](#)

Kuwait

[Reduction in quarantine period; Arrivals to be monitored on Shlonak app in Kuwait](#)

The Ministry of Health will start implementing a new protocol regarding duration of quarantine for those infected with coronavirus, 7 days for vaccinated and 10 days for non-vaccinated. For travelers arriving to Kuwait home quarantine procedures will be monitored on the Shlonak app by the Ministry of Health. [Read more](#)

Malaysia

[HR minister: Online recruitment application for foreign workers soon](#)

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M Saravanan said employers will soon be able to submit online recruitment applications for hiring foreign workers in each sector from source countries. [Read more](#)

Qatar

[Ministry of Interior extends grace period for visa correction](#)

The Ministry of Interior is giving people who've breached their visa regulations extra time to get their paperwork processed and secure valid permits. The ministry has extended the deadline to March 31, 2022. [Read more](#)

Taiwan

[Taiwan MOL to finish migrant worker immigration policy assessment by March](#)

The Ministry of Labor (MOL) is currently discussing a policy that will allow eligible migrant workers to apply for residency and will deliver an assessment report to the Cabinet by the end of March. [Read more](#)

Thailand

[Thailand suspends quarantine-free visas to fight Omicron spread](#)

Thailand indefinitely suspended a quarantine-free visa program for vaccinated visitors to curb the spread of the omicron variant. [Read more](#)

Vietnam

[Vietnam to stop automatic visa extension for stranded foreigners](#)

The automatic extension of visas for foreign nationals stranded in Vietnam due to Covid-19 will end on Saturday and has begun to gradually resume regular commercial flights. [Read more](#)

United Arab Emirates

[Dubai flights: 48-hour validity PCR tests must for passengers from over 12 countries](#)

Effective January 2, 2022, Passengers travelling from more than two dozen countries to Dubai will have to present a negative Covid-19 PCR with a validity of 48 hours. [Read more](#)



Bulgaria

[Bulgaria shuts borders for majority of EU Member States due to omicron concerns](#)

The Bulgarian authorities have published the updated list of epidemiologically safe and unsafe countries, which determines what entry rules apply to travelers from certain countries. [Read more](#)

Estonia

[Estonia continues to keep entry restrictions for arrivals from other EU/Schengen area countries](#)

Estonian authorities have decided to keep COVID-19 entry restrictions for the majority of European Union/Schengen Area countries. The current categorisation of countries enters into force today, January 10, and will remain effective until January 16. [Read more](#)

European Union

[Britons now choose EU Countries' Golden Visa Schemes to win back their travel rights](#)

Despite the fact that the United Kingdom is officially out of the European Union, Britons are finding an "attractive" way in order to continue to live in the EU countries by investing through the Golden Visa Program. [Read more](#)

France

[France plans to ease travel rules for Britons](#)

The French government has announced that the travel restrictions imposed against travelers from the United Kingdom will soon be eased. [Read more](#)

Germany

[Dual citizenship changes Germany's approach to migration](#)

By allowing dual citizenship, the coalition can sidestep the issue of when to ask Syrians to return and give the government some breathing room. [Read more](#)

Greece

[Greece extends entry rules until January 24](#)

The Greek authorities have decided to extend their entry rules imposed against all travelers for another two weeks. [Read more](#)

Lithuania

[Lithuania's President considers lifting state of emergency at Belarus Border](#)

The President of Lithuania Gitanas Nauseda believes that the state of the emergency on the country's border with Belarus would not be extended after January 14, as currently, the situation permits such a decision to be abolished. [Read more](#)

Slovenia

[Slovenia imposes stricter entry requirements, shorter quarantine periods](#)

Slovenia has decided to tighten entry requirements as of Monday as the Omicron-driven wave of COVID infections continues to surge. Still, it reduced the duration of quarantine out of concern that too many people would be absent from work. [Read more](#)

Spain

[Spain continues to keep entry restrictions against All EU/Schengen area countries](#)

Spanish Ministry of Health has announced that all European Union/Schengen Area countries continue to be categorized as risk countries. [Read more](#)

Spain

[The digital nomad visa in Spain](#)

There is a new law currently being proposed for those who wish to telecommute from Spain, particularly citizens of the UK who wish to move to Spain following Brexit, but also Canadian, USA citizens, or any other non-EU citizens or residents. [Read more](#)

Turkey

[Turkey changes conditions for granting citizenship](#)

The Turkish government has changed the regulation for foreigners to acquire citizenship in a bid to support the national currency, or the lira. Foreigners who make a certain investment in the country, buy real estate or make a fixed capital investment could get Turkish citizenship. [Read more](#)

Ukraine

[Agreement on 'industrial visa-free travel' with EU not to be signed in 2022 – Stefanishyna](#)

Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine Olha Stefanishyna says that an agreement on "industrial visa-free travel" with the European Union will not be signed in 2022. In the summer of 2022, the work of missions assessing Ukraine's readiness to conclude an agreement will be completed, and after their completion, the government will be able to initiate official negotiations. [Read more](#)

United Kingdom

[UK suspends walk-in service for visa applicants in Nigeria](#)

The United Kingdom has "temporarily suspended" its flexi appointment service for visa applicants in Nigeria. [Read more](#)



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