



# Immigration News Highlights

2022-48, 29 November 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. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



## Americas

### Canada

#### [Canada to open consulate in Armenia](#)

Global Affairs Canada announced the official opening of a Consulate in the city of Yerevan, Armenia. It shall begin functioning from 15 December 2022, and shall provide services like passport and citizenship assistance, emergency consular assistance, etc. to the Canadian nationals living in Armenia.

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### United States

#### [US extends drop box eligibility period for non-immigrant visa renewals in Nigeria](#)

American authorities announced the extension of the eligibility for the drop box and interview waiver to a period of 48 months from the earlier eligibility period of 24 months. Holders of non-immigrant US visas in Nigeria, that expired in the last 48 months, or will expire in the upcoming 3 months can apply for renewal of their visas without the interview process.

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### Azerbaijan

#### [Azerbaijan to open embassy in Israel](#)

Azerbaijan announced the opening of the first Azerbaijani embassy in the city of Tel Aviv, Israel. The decision was taken to improve the relations between the two countries.

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### India

#### [India lifts all COVID entry restrictions](#)

Indian authorities lifted all COVID related entry restrictions on 22 November 2022. Foreign arrivals will no longer be required to fill the vaccination self-declaration form on the Air Suvidha portal, and would also not be required to provide proof of PCR tests for entry.

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### Macau

#### [Macau tweaks Covid-19 entry requirements after relapse cases consideration](#)

After reducing the period of mandatory quarantine to 5 days, Macau authorities announced that foreign arrivals will have to provide COVID 19 nucleic acid test reports that carry a cycle threshold value (CT value) equal or higher than 35 in order to gain entry into the country.

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### Malaysia

#### [Introduction of electronic pass \(ePass\) for renewal of employment pass and its related passes](#)

The Immigration Department of Malaysia introduced an electronic pass (ePass), enabling individuals to renew their Employment Passes online. The service shall be live from 1 December 2022 on the ESD Online System website.

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### South Korea

#### [South Korea agrees to accept more Thai workers](#)

South Korean ambassador Moon Seoung-hyun signed an agreement with Thailand to accept 15,000 Thai workers in order to combat future labor shortages. The workers will be instated under the E-9 (general workers), E-7 (skilled labour) and E-8 (seasonal agricultural labour) category visas.

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## Europe and Africa



### Egypt

#### [Egypt and Greece sign new agreement to recruit seasonal agricultural workers](#)

Egyptian authorities have agreed to send 5,000 seasonal agricultural workers to Greece, starting from 2023. The agreement was signed to meet the labor needs in the Greek agricultural sector. The workers will be provided with a right of residence in Greece for a period of 9 months.

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### European Union

#### [EU representatives agree for Kosovo visa liberalization to come into effect on January 1, 2024](#)

European Union Member States reached an agreement regarding the visa liberalization of Kosovo. From 1 January 2024, residents of Kosovo holding a Schengen visa will be allowed to travel freely within the Schengen region for a period of 90 days every six months. It was also proposed to link the liberalization process with the operationalization of the European Travel Information and Authorization Process (ETIAS).

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### Germany

#### [Germany to ease citizenship rules for children of foreign parents](#)

German authorities have unveiled plans to make the process of naturalization and acquisition of dual citizenship easier for immigrants. Children born in Germany will automatically become German citizens, provided at least one of their immigrant parents has lived in Germany legally for a minimum of 5 years. Language requirements for elderly immigrants will also be relaxed, enabling them to hold multiple nationalities with relative ease.

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### Germany

#### [Germany Relaxes Schengen Short-Term Visa Appointment Rules for Indian Applicants](#)

Germany announced the relaxation of rules for Indians wishing to apply for a German tourist visa. This is due to the centralization of the processing of short term Schengen visas in the German Visa Centre situated in the city of Mumbai, India. However, the same relaxation of rules is not applicable to Indians applying for national visas, such as employment, student, or family reunification visas.

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## Lithuania

### Lithuania Tightens Immigration & Citizenship Examination Procedures for Foreigners

Lithuania announced the tightening of rules regarding immigration and citizenship examination procedures for foreigners entering the country. While applying for a visa, residence permit, or a residence permit for a family member of an EU citizen, a foreign individual will have to submit additional documents as required per the new rules. This was done in order to control illegal immigration to the country.

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## Nigeria

### Nigerians with expired passport can return home

Holders of expired Nigerian passports will be allowed to return to their home country without a visa, as announced by the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS). The holder of the passport would only have to present their expired passport as proof that they are from Nigeria.

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## Switzerland

### Switzerland Sets the Quota for Third-Country Qualified Workers to 8,500 for 2023

Swiss authorities have set the quota for third-country qualified workers to 8,500 for 2023. Out of these, 4,500 third country nationals will be recruited under a B residence permit, while the rest under a short-term L residence permit. This is done to strengthen and stabilize different economic sectors in Switzerland by admitting workers from third countries.

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## Switzerland

### Switzerland to Continue Allowing Britons to Work Without a Permit for up to 3 Months per Year

Swiss and British authorities have agreed to extend the validity of the Services Mobility Agreement for an additional three years. This extension allows professionals from the UK to travel and operate freely in Swiss territory for a period of 90 days without obtaining a permit.

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