



Immigration News Highlights

2022-49, 6 December 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](#)

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Americas

Canada

[Canada to allow kin of Open Work Permit holders to take up jobs for easing acute labor shortage](#)

Canadian authorities announced the extension of the Open Work Permit to the family members of the permit holders. This move was announced to combat the acute labor shortage being faced in the country and will enter into effect from next year.

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United States

[Proposal to increase USCIS fees clears White House review](#)

A proposal adjusting the fees charged for immigration and naturalization benefits by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services has cleared the White House Office of Management and Budget review. The exact amount increases shall be available next year.

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Bangladesh

[Bangladesh seeks ease of Guatemalan visa process](#)

The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh proposed to simplify the Guatemalan visa application process for Bangladeshi nationals. The authorities are also considering a visa waiver for holders of official and diplomatic passports between the two countries.

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Indonesia

[Indonesia eyes property, economic boost with residency visa plan for foreign investors](#)

Indonesian authorities announced the requirements for their long-term residency visa scheme aimed to attract foreign capital and property investors. The visa requires a minimum bank balance of US\$ 130,000 and would provide a tax holiday once approved.

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Kazakhstan

[Kazakh Government introduces Migration Policy Concept for 2023-2027](#)

Kazakhstan announced their migration policy for the years of 2023-2027. The policy outlines the government's plans to introduce an investor visa for migrants who have invested at least US\$ 300,000 in the Kazak economy, amongst other immigration measures.

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New Zealand

[Wood postpones partner work visa changes until Easter](#)

The New Zealand Minister of Immigration, Michael Wood, announced the deferment of the tightening of work visas for accredited employer work visa holders to April 2023. The changes have been postponed, allowing the government enough time to consider the effect they might have on concerned parties.

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Saudi Arabia

[Saudis can apply for personal visit visa for friends](#)

Saudi authorities announced a new mechanism of visa applications, allowing Saudi citizens to apply for personal visit visas on behalf of their foreign friends and acquaintances. The visa holders will be allowed to travel and visit religious and historical sites, and participate in cultural events, amongst other allowances.

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Singapore

Overseas Network and Expertise pass to be launched

The government of Singapore announced the forthcoming launch of the Overseas Networks and Expertise (ONE) pass in January 2023. The pass will allow foreign nationals to work for multiple companies at any point of time while residing in the country. To obtain the pass, individuals would have to meet certain criteria related to minimum monthly income, employment history, professional achievements, etc.

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Europe and Africa

Germany

Germany To Facilitate Rules for Internationals to Obtain Citizenship

German authorities announced changes to the immigration laws, making it easier for foreigners to acquire German citizenship. The government plans to eliminate all bureaucratic hurdles, streamlining the procedure for people with personal potential and professional experience.

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Germany

Germany eases residency rules for foreigners on 'tolerated stay' permits

Germany adopted a new immigration law, allowing internationals holding a short term 'tolerated stay' permit to acquire residency. Foreigners with a clean criminal record, who have been residing in Germany for at least 5 years by 31 October 2022 will receive 18 months of 'opportunity rights of residence', allowing them to meet the requirements for a residency permit.

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Ireland

Extension for residence permit card to be granted

Ireland extended the validity of the Irish Residence Permit Card due to a processing backlog. Foreign nationals holding an expired IRP card will be allowed to stay in Ireland for an additional 8 weeks, provided they can prove significant efforts taken by them to renew it.

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Italy

Italy Expands List of Third Country Citizens Eligible for Maternity Allowance

Italian authorities expanded the list of foreign beneficiaries qualifying for maternity compensation available to atypical and intermittently employed parents. The allowance will be paid directly to workers who are incapable of benefitting from the regular maternity allowance due to the nature of their work.

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Netherlands

Increased minimum wages for 2023 announced

Netherlands announced an increase of more than 10 percent in statutory minimum wage amounts. The wages for full time employees aged 21 years and above will be increased from EUR 1,756.20 to EUR 1,934.45 per month, effective from 1 January 2023.

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Qatar

Qatari Citizens to Enter Schengen Zone Countries Visa-Free

Qatari citizens are now eligible to enter the countries in the European Union without applying for a visa at first. The decision would be formalized upon presentation in the European Parliament.

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Switzerland

Permit quotas for 2023 declared

Swiss authorities have set the permit quotas applicable for 2023. The quota remains unchanged for EU/EFTA, non-EU/EFTA and UK nationals.

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Turkey

Turks in Germany can obtain dual citizenship

Via the amendments introduced by the German government, Turkish citizens residing in Germany would be able to obtain dual citizenship. The minimum residency requirement for the same has been reduced from 8 years to 5, with additional special allowances wherever applicable.

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United Kingdom

Minimum wages to be increased

The British Home Office announced a forthcoming increase of 9 percent in the minimum wages, applicable from 1 April 2023. For workers aged 22 years and above, the hourly national minimum wage will increase from GBP 9.50 to GBP 10.42.

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