



Immigration News Highlights

2023-25, 20 June 2023



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 expands Francophone mobility program to attract French-speaking immigrants

The Government of Canada has announced that the Francophone Mobility Programme will be extended for a two-year term. The Francophone Mobility Programme, which was introduced in 2016, enables a Canadian employer to extend a job offer to a qualified applicant who possesses a fair command of French for all National Occupation Classifications, except for positions in primary agriculture.

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United States

US Green Card eligibility criteria eased

The Government of United States has announced a relaxation of the green card eligibility criteria, allowing those awaiting green cards to work and remain in the United States.

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United States

USCIS provides guidance on employment authorization documents based on compelling circumstances

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced policy guidance based on the regulatory requirements in 8 CFR 204.5 on the eligibility requirements for first and renewal applications for employment authorization documents (EADs).

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Asia Pacific

Kuwait

[Kuwait, Japan takes first step towards waiving entry visas](#)

The Governments of Kuwait and Japan reached an agreement on relinquishing entry visa requirements for diplomatic and official passport holders in the two nations. The agreement will be in effect 90 days since it has been implemented.

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Malaysia

[Malaysia revamps visa process to draw skilled workers](#)

The Government of Malaysia is implementing a new system that will make it simpler for businesses to apply for work visas to recruit foreign experts to the nation's main sectors and strengthen its post-pandemic economy.

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Thailand

[Thailand to shorten entry visa approval for Chinese tourists to less than 7 days](#)

The Government of Thailand announced that it will only take less than seven to approve Chinese visitors' entrance visas to Thailand. Working with Thailand's embassies and consulates in China, the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will streamline the entrance visa approval process to ensure that Chinese visitors may get entry visas within a week.

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Europe and Africa

Bulgaria



[Bulgaria introduces new regulations for golden visa program](#)

The Government of Bulgaria has introduced new regulations for its Golden Visa programme because of the conclusion of its Citizenship by Investment programme in 2021. In April 2023, the Bulgarian government passed amendments to the Aliens Act that established the framework for foreign investors to acquire residence in Bulgaria through investment.

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European Union

[EU Parliament & Council agree to make Schengen visa application procedures completely online](#)

The Parliament and the Council of the European Union have decided on rules to digitalize the processes for Schengen visas. The Council claims that the primary goal of this plan is to improve efficiency and streamline the visa application process. The EU authorities also hope to increase security within the Schengen Area by enacting new regulations.

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Finland

[Finland's new government introduces reforms in immigration and social security policies](#)

The new coalition government of Finland has announced plans to tighten down on immigration. The far-right oversees the interior ministry. The plans include reduction in differentiation in social security and benefits, new requirements for permanent residency, income threshold for residency permits, notification requirements for employers, and others.

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Germany

[Germany to pass immigration reform law this week](#)

The Government of Germany has announced that it is set to approve a bill making it simpler for qualified people, particularly those from outside the European Union, to immigrate after the cabinet reached an agreement.

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Hungary

[Hungary opens doors to guest workers with new employment legislation](#)

The Ministry of Trade and Industry of Hungary announced that workers from nations outside the European Economic Area can now lawfully remain in Hungary for periods longer than 90 days. However, to be eligible, these employees must have legitimate travel credentials, be able to support themselves, have a verifiable address, and meet security criteria.

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Switzerland

[Switzerland & United Kingdom sign agreement on mutual recognition of professional qualifications](#)

The Swiss government has announced that Switzerland and the United Kingdom have signed a contract on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications. According to the Swiss government, the agreement between Switzerland and the UK benefits businesses and grants access to employees in both nations.

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