

# *Global Immigration newsletter*

## Autumn 2011



## Introduction

The end of 2011 will soon be upon us; a time of year when international assignments and business travel slows. It is also a time for planning; looking back on projects and past assignments, revising business strategies and planning for the year ahead.

This second edition of Global Immigration News brings you vital updates on immigration changes around the world. We have carefully selected the list of countries to make sure the diversity of global immigration is more transparent for you.

We would also like to understand your immigration issues better. What are the real concerns that you're facing and what would you like to hear more of in 2012? Please take a moment to answer our short survey by clicking on the link below.

We really look forward to hearing your feedback and would like to take this opportunity (albeit early!) to wish you a very merry Christmas..

Regards,  
**Stephan Judge**

To access the survey, please click [here](#).



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## List of countries



Angola	Peru
Australia	Portugal
Brazil	Singapore
Denmark	Sweden
Estonia	Taiwan
France	Tanzania
Germany	Thailand
Greece	The Netherlands
Hungary	Turkey
Ireland	Ukraine
Latvia	United Kingdom
Mauritius	United States of America
Nigeria	Vietnam
Norway	

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## ***Your country information***

### **Angola**

Angola and Portugal have recently signed an Agreement on Business and Working Visas. From now on citizens of both countries can apply and obtain short term, multi-entry business visas, which will enable to travel between Angola and Portugal and be valid for certain period of time. Both business visas and work permits will be issued much faster and with longer validity. This will certainly make the cumbersome and lengthy Angolan immigration process easier for Portuguese staff.

### **Australia**

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship announced an increase to salary thresholds for the visa widely used for foreigners working in Australia. In addition, eligible employers will be able to apply for a new accredited sponsor status.

The status will give priority processing to certain visa applications. This should make some of your transfers faster. If you wish to know more about salary levels or to find out if you're business is eligible, please contact us.

### **Brazil**

The government has advised of changes in the amount of direct foreign investment into Brazilian companies wanting to obtain permanent work permits for foreigners at certain job levels. This may affect you if you're thinking of sending employees to Brazil on a permanent transfer basis.

### **Denmark**

After introducing a fee for work and residence permits at the start of 2011, concerns have been raised by Danish employers around taxation of the payable fees. The Danish National Tax Board has now confirmed that a fee paid by an employer on applications for residence and

work permit is not taxable. This may be important to note if you wish to increase your multinational population going into Denmark.

### **Estonia**

Similar to other EU countries, the Government of Estonia has introduced the Blue Card Scheme. The EU blue card - a residence permit for employment, can be granted to a skilled foreigner that receives a job offer in Estonia. This means that transfers of eligible non EU nationals to other EU countries participating in the scheme will be easier.

### **France**

France follows other European States by introducing a French version of the EU Blue Card Scheme, which aims to attract highly skilled professionals who receive a job offer and meet certain requirements (professional experience, diplomas). This should make the movement of non EU staff in the EU simpler.

### **Germany**

Germany has introduced a new electronic residence permit (eAT). The new document is now issued in a credit card format and has replaced the conventional residence permit for non EU nationals and residency cards for Swiss and EEA nationals. From now on all residence permit applications will require personal appearance at the authorities (due to biometric data capture) and you may experience delays in permits being issued.

### **Greece**

The Greek Government has announced changes to the process of issuing residence permits for third-country nationals. The changes mean that the residence permit will no longer be endorsed in the passport, but will be a separate biometric electronic card. A fee for issuing the permits will also apply. This, however, should not have direct impact on your employees or business.

## Your country information...continued

### Hungary

Hungary has introduced the EU Blue Card scheme which allows highly skilled non-EU nationals to enter Hungary and certain EU member states. The EU blue card is issued to highly skilled workers who receive a job offer. This makes it easier for you to send skilled individuals for a longer period of time, under a local contract.

At the same time, Hungary is also planning to introduce rules which would limit the number of incoming non-EU workers, by introducing a quota system that will also cover the EU Blue Card Scheme.

### Ireland

Ireland's first ever Short Stay Visa Waiver Programme commenced on 1 July 2011. The Programme will run as a pilot for a limited period of time and cover certain emerging markets from Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Holders of UK short term visas will be able to travel to Ireland within the time of validity of that visa, without obtaining a separate Irish visa. The Programme, besides being a great way to attract tourists, could be a smart solution for business travellers wanting to visit Ireland after a trip to the UK.

In addition, the Irish government is proposing major changes to the current system in place for non-EEA nationals seeking entry to Ireland to start a business. The current system has a set of stringent requirements, including a €300,000 investment, which has been considered challenging for start-ups and entrepreneurial ventures. We will keep you updated.

### Latvia

The Latvian Government has prepared a list of amendments to residence permit applications for investors. One of the key changes that will simplify the process will be an option for investors to submit residence permit applications directly in Latvia. The updates to the regulations should not have direct impact on the business related permits.

### Mauritius

Some individuals may be eligible to apply for a new occupational permit, that combines residency and the work permits in one. There are few categories, including professional workers, self-employed or investors, and the main criteria are based on minimum income or minimum investment amount. The idea behind it is to attract more professional, talented workers to the country and should therefore make transfers into Mauritius a little simpler.



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## *Your country information...continued*

### **Nigeria**

Recently the President of Nigeria and Minister of Trade and Investment have advised possible simplifications of the visa processes. The proposals are to introduce business visas to investors at the port of entry in Nigeria and also to revise validity of the visas. The Nigerian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom announced that Nigeria has adopted the principle of reciprocity for the issuance of visas to Britons i.e. multiple entry visas that are valid for 6 months, 1, 2, 5 and 10 years will now be issued to British citizens. These changes could certainly encourage foreign investment in Nigeria; however, implementation of the issuance of visas at the port of entry is still under discussions and we will update you in a future newsletter.

### **Norway**

Norway has launched the Application Portal, which allows applying for visas, work study permits and other immigration categories online from certain locations. The great advantage is time saving; the process can be started outside of office hours and without waiting in lines. The necessary original paperwork still needs to be delivered to relevant authorities - something we can arrange on your behalf.

### **Peru**

The Peruvian Government has announced implementation of the Residence Agreement for National Citizens of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and also Bolivia and Chile. The citizens of mentioned countries may apply for temporary residence visas in Peru for up to two years. The temporary residence allows the foreign citizens to take on any job or execute commercial agreements while in Peru. This will make it easier for employers to transfer.

### **Portugal**

Portugal and Angola have recently signed an Agreement on Business and Working Visas. From now on citizens of both countries can apply and obtain short term, multi-entry business visas, which will enable travel between Portugal and Angola, valid for a certain period of time. Both business visas and work permits will be issued much faster and with longer validity. This will make the movement of citizens and goods between the two countries much easier.

### **Singapore**

The Ministry of Manpower continues to review work pass requirements: they introduced additional measures to tighten the eligibility requirements for the Employment Pass. Educational qualification requirements will be constricted, and minimum salary thresholds further revised. Separately, the administrative fees for most types of work pass will be increased. These

changes could be significant for your strategic planning and selection process of international assignees particularly those lower or mid-level professional positions.

### **Sweden**

We are happy to announce that as of October 2011 our PwC Sweden office was certified by the Swedish Migration Board. This means that PwC Sweden can obtain a work and residence permit on behalf of our clients with turnaround almost three times faster than standard processes. For you, it may mean that you can start the assignments with shorter notice which makes it easier to manage resources and business demands in Sweden.

## Your country information...continued



### Taiwan

The Immigration Agency has announced that discussions about relaxing the requirements for foreigners to work in the country have commenced. The aim is to attract professionals and authorities will be looking at revising salary levels and years of experience needed for obtaining work permits. We will keep an eye on this and keep you up to date with any changes.

### Tanzania

Fee increases for various permits, visas and visitor's passes for Tanzania have been introduced recently. For some categories the increase is significant. Please contact us if you require a detailed fee list or information on the immigration requirements.

### Thailand

Important new regulations for obtaining work permits in Thailand have recently been introduced. One of the changes is that self employed foreigners can now

obtain a work permit for Thailand if they meet certain conditions. Also, some of the steps for applying for work permits have been revised, which may impact on your current pipeline assignments and transfers.

### The Netherlands

The EU Blue Card Scheme has also made its way to the Dutch Legal System. The new type of residence permit will exist next to the existing Highly Skilled Migrant residence permit (HSM). However, the conditions for obtaining EU Blue Card residence are stricter than those for the HSM. Therefore, we may expect that a residence permit under EU Blue Card will be approved on an exceptional basis only.

### Turkey

The immigration authorities in Turkey have tightened the controls for written notifications to be filed upon the start, finish and any delay of the contract with foreign nationals who are granted a work permit. In cases where these notifications

are not filed in a timely manner, employers may face mandatory penalties.

In addition, The Ministry of Labour has developed a new on-line database connected to related government bodies to check employers' obligatory liabilities such as immigration permits, social security of work permit holders, etc. The data in the on-line system is used by the officials in the work permit approval processes, making the applications finalised quicker.

### Ukraine

The government has informed of changes to applications for temporary residence permits in Ukraine. The changes would be applicable to some categories of foreign nationals, including non-working spouses of holders of Ukrainian temporary residence permits. The legislation has not come into force yet; we will inform you about the effective date in the future newsletter.

## Your country information...continued

### United Kingdom

Further to the settlement consultation that we mentioned in PwC Global Immigration Summer 2011 Newsletter, the UKBA advised that it is planning to publish their proposals by the end of the year. We hope to include the updates in our next Newsletter.

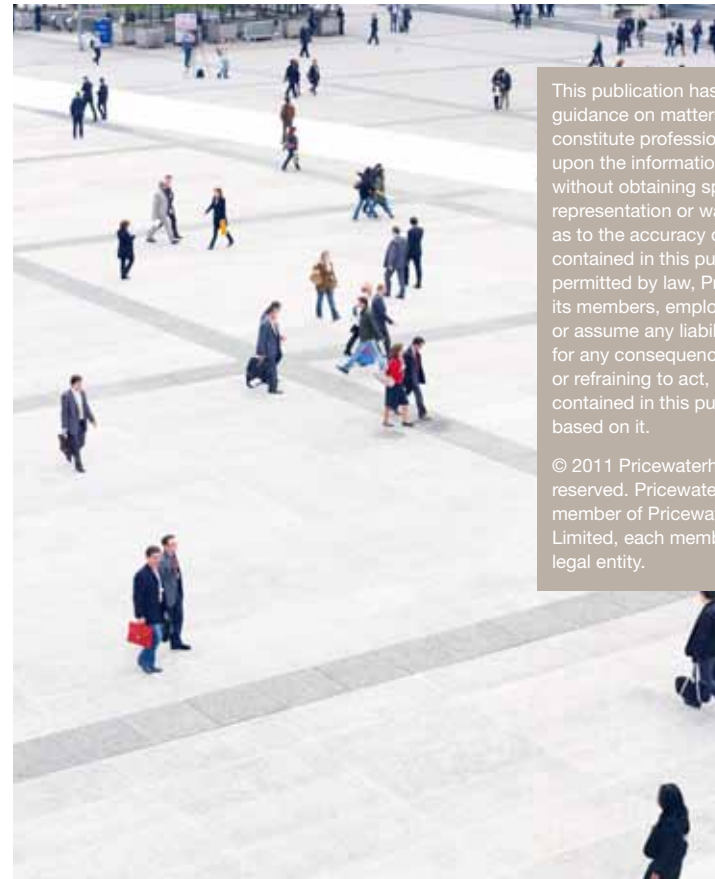
The new Exceptional Talent migration route has been opened by the UK Government recently. Eligible migrants will include leaders or potential world leading talents in the fields of science or art. Employer sponsorship will not be required to qualify for this category, making it possible route for your top talent.

### United States of America

H-1B visas usage continues to approach the annual cap. If you are a cap-subject employer and are considering first-time H-1B filings, we recommend to make a decision as soon as possible and to file any new cases well before the end of 2011. Otherwise, you may not be able to use this category for a considerable period.

### Vietnam

In order to hire a foreign national, employers will now need to provide evidence that they tried to recruit locally. This means that employers need to add in more time for preparation of work permit applications and provide more detail with regards to job descriptions. Also, the government has introduced new stiffer penalties targeting employees without a valid work permit.



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