



## NEWS FROM UKRAINE

### Ukraine, Russia sign agreement on readmission

An intergovernmental agreement on readmission and an executive protocol on the procedure of its implementation were signed in Moscow on 22 October, 2012 in the presence of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the press service of the Ukrainian President has reported.

The agreement regulates the issues of cooperation between the two sides in the transfer by the competent bodies of the states of individuals who entered or are in the territory of the requesting country in violation of immigration laws.

The mechanism of the implementation of the international agreement is established by the executive protocol.

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 23 October, 2012

[http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine\\_russia\\_sign\\_agreement\\_on\\_readmission\\_291259](http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_russia_sign_agreement_on_readmission_291259)

### Parliament of Ukraine ratifies counter-trafficking agreement with CIS

The Ukrainian Parliament on 16 October, 2012 ratified an agreement on cooperation of the CIS member states in combating human trafficking, the Ukrainian Parliament's press office reported.

"The Parliament of Ukraine adopted the Law "On Ratification of the Agreement on Cooperation of Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings, Human Organs and Tissues," reads the report.

The agreement, signed on 25 November, 2005, aims to develop a coherent strategy and adopt integrated joint legal, social, economic, information measures for the fight against human trafficking, eliminate the causes and conditions conducive to its occurrence, and protect the victims and their rehabilitation.

Members of Parliament ratified this agreement with a reservation: "Ukraine does not consider itself bound by the provisions on the harmonization of legislation and implementation of the agreed measures to implement the provisions of the UN Convention and other international treaties."

Under the document, the parties shall cooperate in the following areas: exchanging intelligence, criminal, statistical and other information; assisting in staff training and skills development; developing and introducing new methods of social and medical rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking, especially women and children.

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 17 October, 2012

[http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/parliament\\_ratifies\\_anti\\_human\\_trafficking\\_deal\\_with\\_cis\\_290856](http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/parliament_ratifies_anti_human_trafficking_deal_with_cis_290856)

### President of Ukraine signs law toughening legal protection of refugees

The President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich signed the Law "On Amendments to some Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Refugees and Persons, Requiring Additional or Temporary Protection."

The law amends the Article 466 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of Ukraine, which states that refugees or persons in need



of complementary protection, who are provided with temporary protection, may not be extradited to a foreign state, where danger threatens their life or freedom on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, citizenship, belonging to a certain social group, or political views; or to a foreign state, which may extradite or return them by force to such foreign states; or to a foreign state where they may be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

This law also adjusts the issue of provision of foreigners or stateless persons with complementary or temporary protection, defines their rights and obligations.

In addition, the law defines measures for protection of unaccompanied minors and children in need of complementary or temporary protection. In particular, migration authorities assist in search of parents and other legal representatives of unaccompanied minors and children in need of complementary or temporary protection, separated from their families; and in settlement of these children in the relevant children's establishments or families.

The law also states that foreigners and stateless persons with tuberculosis who constantly live in Ukraine, as well as persons recognized as refugees or as persons in need of complementary protection, have the right to medical assistance equally with citizens of Ukraine on conditions set forth by this law, other laws or international treaties of Ukraine, approved as binding by the Parliament of Ukraine.

**Read more:** Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 15 October, 2012  
[http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/4121/yanukovych\\_singed\\_law\\_toughening\\_legal\\_protection\\_of\\_refugees](http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/4121/yanukovych_singed_law_toughening_legal_protection_of_refugees)

## **President calls to be aware of xenophobia**

The President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich called to remain vigilant in relation to conflicts on the grounds of nationality.

The President emphasized this on the International Summit on the problems of protection of the rights of national minorities "Experience of Ukraine for the World", news agency UKRINFORM informs.

"Despite the positive dynamics of the recent years, we are sometimes concerned with the facts of violent displays of xenophobia. These conflicts are mainly of personal nature, but it is necessary to be vigilant as the increase of migration flows, appearance of radical ideologies may at any moment turn a little local conflict into a serious threat," Mr. Yanukovich noted.

The President emphasized that Ukraine realizes these threats and actively works on non-admission of the similar scenarios.

**Read more:** Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 2 October, 2012  
[http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/4017/yanukovych\\_calls\\_on\\_to\\_remain\\_vigilant\\_in\\_relation\\_to\\_displays\\_of\\_xenophobia](http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/4017/yanukovych_calls_on_to_remain_vigilant_in_relation_to_displays_of_xenophobia)

## **Polish Parliament ratifies social security agreement with Ukraine**

Polish Parliament has unanimously voted for the ratification of the Poland-Ukraine agreement on social security. Ratification of the document was approved by 433 Members of Parliament on 10 October, 2012, with no votes against or abstentions.

"Poland's signing of the agreement with Ukraine on social security is intended to respond to social expectations in this area, as well as to solve the problems of citizens of Poland and Ukraine, which arise from the lack of such



an agreement,” document justification states. It is reported that the problem pertains to a significant number of Ukrainian immigrants in Poland, in particular, about one thousand people who moved for permanent residence in Poland from 1997 to 2004 and do not receive pensions for many years of work in Ukraine.

Ratification of the agreement would also prevent double payment of social security contributions by Polish workers staying on business missions in Ukraine. “The introduction of appropriate legislative changes would eliminate double payment of social security contributions and thus remove one of the obstacles to the development of the Ukrainian-Polish economic cooperation,” the paper reads.

The agreement between Ukraine and Poland on social security of citizens was signed in Kyiv in May this year.

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 11 October, 2012

[http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/polish\\_parliament\\_ratifies\\_social\\_security\\_agreement\\_with\\_ukraine\\_290423](http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/polish_parliament_ratifies_social_security_agreement_with_ukraine_290423)

## **Ukrainian parliamentarians adopt law to reduce dual citizenship cases**

On 2 October, 2012 Members of Parliament adopted the Law “On Amendments to some Legislative Acts Concerning Citizenship,” which will reduce the cases of dual citizenship.

“The law is aimed at realization of requirements of the Constitution of Ukraine regarding a single citizenship by way of prevention and reduction of dual citizenship cases. It is established that non-submission or untimely submission by a full-aged citizen of Ukraine, who voluntarily became a foreign citizen, of an application and a copy of a document about this, confirming acquiring of foreign citizenship by him/her, entails imposing of a fine from 10 to 30 tax-exempt minimums of citizens’ incomes,” an explanatory note to the document reads.

The same violations, conducted by state and local government officials entail a fine from 50 to 100 tax-exempt minimums. The document also has a list of positions, to which persons can be employed, having a citizenship of another state.

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 3 October, 2012

[http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/parliamentarians\\_adopt\\_law\\_to\\_reduce\\_dual\\_citizenship\\_cases\\_289793](http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/parliamentarians_adopt_law_to_reduce_dual_citizenship_cases_289793)

## **State Migration Service to issue foreign passports of Ukrainians from 2013**

The State Migration Service of Ukraine is planning to expand its powers and issue foreign passports to Ukrainians from 1 January, 2013, Director of the Department of Passport Work and Citizenship of the State Migration Service of Ukraine Dina Pimakhova said.

In a TV interview Ms. Pimakhova said that the service currently issues domestic passports, registers the place of residence of citizens and performs other functions envisaged by the legislation of Ukraine on citizenship and immigration.

“From 1 January, 2013, it will also be possible to get passports for Ukrainian citizens travelling abroad in the territorial department of the State Migration Service by place of residence, regardless of the place of registration,” Ms. Pimakhova stated.

She said that it would be possible to get the document within 10 or 30 days. In the first case, the state fee is UAH 340, and the cost of a passport form is UAH 270, whereas in the second case a citizen would pay UAH 170



and UAH 120 respectively. The legislation also foresees the possibility of obtaining foreign passports within three days for those in need of treatment abroad, those accompanying sick persons or in connection with the death of a relative.

**Read more:** Interfax, 22 October, 2012  
<http://www.interfax.com.ua/eng/main/122763/>

## United States to issue 10-year visas for Ukrainians

Kyiv and Washington are completing negotiations on the introduction of the 10-year U.S. visas for Ukrainian citizens. The United States are currently holding the relevant domestic procedures, Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States Oleksandr Motsyk said.

“We have been in talks with the American party for two years. We agreed that the Ukrainian party should meet certain conditions, and as of today we fulfilled these conditions. It is recognized by the American party. Now we are waiting for an internal agreement between the U.S. Department of State and Department of Homeland Security. A 10-year visa will actually mean a visa-free regime,” Mr. Motsyk said.

After the domestic inter-agency procedures in the United States are agreed, citizens of Ukraine will be able to get a 10-year visa to visit the United States.

Ukraine’s implementation of pre-conditions relates to certain aspects of security and consular matters, the Ambassador said.

**Read more:** ForUm, 4 October, 2012  
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/10/04/145732.html>

## German and Dutch experts carry out travel document security training

Experts from the embassies of Germany and the Netherlands in Ukraine delivered a two-day travel document security training for 24 of EUBAM’s (European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine) partners from the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) and Odesa State University of Internal Affairs.

The participants were mainly first-line officers from the Southern Regional Directorate of the SBGS responsible for identifying false, falsified and impostor travel documents such as fake passports.

The training focussed on issues such as profiling, passport checking, security features, and hands-on training, using authentic and false documents.

**Read more:** EU Neighbourhood Info Centre, 9 October, 2012  
[http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id\\_type=1&id=30548&lang\\_id=450](http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id_type=1&id=30548&lang_id=450)

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*Compiled by Communications team of IOM Ukraine*