



President signed amendments to several legislative acts on documents confirming citizenship of Ukraine aimed at liberalization of visa regime for Ukraine by the EU

3 August 2016 – President of Ukraine, Official website

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko signed Law №1474-VIII “On Amendments to Several Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Documents Confirming Citizenship of Ukraine, Certifying Identity or Special Status of a Person Aimed at Liberalization of the Visa Regime for Ukraine by the European Union”. The law was adopted by the Parliament on 14 July 2016. The law specifies a list of documents that certify identity, confirm citizenship of Ukraine or special status of a person, with or without a contactless electronic chip.

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Electronic database of IDPs launched in pilot mode – Minister for Social Policy

1 August 2016 - Focus

The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine launched an electronic register of IDPs on 1 August. Previously, every social protection department in the regions had its own IDP register. The registers functioned autonomously, hindering the nationwide process of collecting the statistical information about the number of IDPs, their residence and social security payments provided to them. The unified register seeks to facilitate digital information exchange between the Ministry of Social Policy and Ukrainian citizens, volunteers and NGOs involved in assisting IDPs in Ukraine.

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Over 300 thousand registered IDPs could not confirm their status – Tuka

31 August 2016 – Ukraine Today

As of today, 300 thousand previously registered IDPs could not confirm their status, Deputy Minister of Temporary Occupied Territories and IDPs Heorhii Tuka said. According to the deputy minister, the exact number of IDPs is currently unknown.

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Ukraine approves Donbas restoration concept

31 August 2016 – Ukraine Today

The Ukrainian government has approved a concept of restoration and development of peace in conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine. “The document includes restoration of critically important objects, providing short-term social help, renewal of social payments and so on”, noted Ukraine’s Minister for

Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs Vadym Chernysh.

The Ukrainian government hopes to receive at least USD 1.5 billion from international donors, most of which will be spent to restore infrastructure.

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Ukraine, Canada start negotiations on visa regime improvement

25 August 2016 – Interfax Ukraine

Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Roman Waschuk has said that Ukraine and Canada are starting negotiations on the improvement of the visa regime, rather than on the introduction of visa-free travel for Ukrainian citizens.

The ambassador noted that Canada issues visas to Ukrainians for a period of 10 years. At the same time, the citizens of Bulgaria and Romania still need visas to visit Canada. "The nature of our legislation, the nature of our emigrational legislation is such that this is about simplification, improvement, but not about transferring to some visa-free regime over the next year," the ambassador added.

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Poland issues over half a million visas to Ukrainians in the last six months

9 August 2016 – Ukrinform

In the first half of this year, Polish consular offices issued more than 565,000 visas to Ukrainian citizens. In the first half of 2016, Poland issued more than 565,000 visas to Ukrainians, which is almost a quarter more than during the same period of the previous year (over 433,000). Compared to the same period of 2015, the number of issued "Schengen" visas increased by 20 per cent and national visas by 26 per cent.

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Ukraine ends visa-free deal with North Korea to keep out 'ineligible persons'

31 August 2016 – Reuters

Ukraine has revoked a Soviet-era deal that allowed visa-free travel for North Koreans, the latest setback for isolated North Korea, which has been under growing pressure since the UN Security Council imposed toughened new sanctions in March.

A Ukraine government document seen by Reuters said that the government approved a decree on 27 July to terminate the pact with North Korea, a major buyer of Ukraine's flour that had allowed visa-free travel between the two countries.

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1,500 Ukrainians apply for asylum in Germany

2 August 2016 – Ukrinform

Almost 1,500 Ukrainians applied for asylum in Germany during the first half of 2016. The German agencies are now reviewing more than 6,000 relevant applications from Ukrainians.

German officials have recognized Ukrainians as refugees in ten cases, while the number of rejected applications was 570.

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Ukrainian dream of minor refugees

23 August 2016 – Livyi Bereh

The question of what to do with unaccompanied minors was raised in Ukraine in 2007, when their number increased ten times, according to Head of Department of Children Rights and Adoption of the Ministry of Social Policy Mr. Ruslan Kovbasa. In 2003, 4 children applied for refugee status, and in 2007 their number increased to 130 applications. The real number of unaccompanied foreigners in Ukraine is unknown because they are not registered by the Migration Service, representative of Commissioner of the President of Ukraine for Children's Rights Oksana Fylypshyna said.

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Frequently asked questions by IDPs: Donbas SOS statistics

19 August 2016 - Media Port

In July, NGO Donbas SOS provided 3,353 consultations to IDPs. The most frequently asked questions are related to the payment of social benefits, processing of certificates, crossing of the contact line. In addition, IDPs need assistance with housing, humanitarian aid, employment, and medication.

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Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team