



European Commission confirms intention to recommend Council of EU to cancel visas for Ukrainians

18 January 2016 — Interfax

The European Commission in first quarter of 2016 will recommend the Council of the European Union to introduce a visa-free travel regime for Ukrainians, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn said. Speaking to the journalists in Brussels before the meeting of the Council of the EU, Hahn said that he expects the European Commission to file a formal proposal on Ukraine and Georgia visa-free travel in the course of the first quarter of 2016. The EU Commissioner has said that Ukraine still needs to meet certain commitments undertaken by the president and prime minister.

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Dutch PM says will push for 'yes' in Ukraine vote

10 January 2016 — Reuters

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said he would argue for a "yes" vote in an upcoming referendum on a treaty on closer ties between the European Union and Ukraine which threatens to overshadow his presidency of the 28-member bloc. Rutte's remarks came a day after European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker warned that a rejection of the treaty by Dutch voters could lead to a "continental crisis".

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Kyiv, Warsaw clash over million Ukrainians in Poland

20 January 2016 — GlobalPost

Kyiv and Warsaw disagreed on whether the one million Ukrainians living in Poland were refugees or economic migrants, as Europe tackles an unprecedented immigration crisis. Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydlo set off the spat with her remarks. "Poland has welcomed around a million Ukrainian refugees," she told the European Parliament.

Ukraine's ambassador to Warsaw Andrii Deshchytsia agreed there were around a million Ukrainians living in Poland, but said they were not refugees. "These are people who come and stay here legally, who work, who study, who pay taxes and contribute in a certain sense to Polish economic development," he said in a statement to the Polish news agency PAP. "These are not refugees. They don't have that status and they don't receive state aid.... There is reason to call them economic migrants instead," he added Wednesday.

Deshchytsia said that of the 4,000 asylum requests filed over the last two years by Ukrainians in Poland, only two were accepted.

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Poroshenko enacts bill on strengthening guarantees of IDPs' rights and liberties

11 January 2016 – Interfax

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has enacted bill No. 2166 on strengthening guarantees of rights and liberties of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The document amends some Ukrainian laws on the provision of IDPs' rights and liberties. According to the amendments, the notion of "IDP" is specified, and the State will work to create conditions for voluntarily return of IDPs to the places where they lived or their integration at the new place of their residence in Ukraine. The procedure for receiving IDP certificates was improved, and the necessity of registering the place of residence for IDPs was revoked.

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Belarus learns to absorb tens of thousands of Ukrainians

19 January 2016 – BelarusDigest

The overall number of Ukrainians who came to Belarus since the start of the conflict in south-eastern Ukraine stands at around 150,000 persons. This figure includes refugees, economic migrants, and people with family ties in Belarus, who potentially could soon apply for citizenship.

As of December 2015, 46,000 Ukrainians have already secured permanent resident status in Belarus. With the highest numbers of Ukrainian migrants per capita in 2015, Belarus had to adapt to the new migration trends in the region. Ukrainian citizens from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions enjoyed preferential treatment from the Belarusian state.

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Thousands of Ukrainian asylum seekers can be deported from Germany

19 January 2016 —Deutsche Welle

Over 7,000 Ukrainians applied for asylum in Germany since the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Over the past weeks, many of them received notifications about denial of refugee status. It means that they will have to leave the country, DW reported with reference to the Frankfurter Rundschau.

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Ukrainian refugees forced to leave Russia

15 January 2016 —Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty

Some Ukrainian refugees will have to leave Russia by February 1, under new rules imposed last autumn. There are exceptions for those from certain parts of war-torn eastern Ukraine, and others who have applied for and received permission to stay. It's not clear how many people need to actually move out of the country.

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Ukraine may open first check point for people and humanitarian cargos in Luhansk region

20 January 2016 - Interfax

Ukraine is ready to study the possibility of opening first check point for the population and humanitarian cargos in Luhansk region, OSCE Special Envoy in the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine Martin Sajdik said.

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Ukraine starts issuing plastic ID cards

11 January 2016 – Ukrinform

The State Migration Service of Ukraine has started to issue the internal passports of the citizen of Ukraine in the form of an ID card for persons who have reached the age of 16 years and obtain a passport for the first time. However, the cards will be issued only at the local State Migration Service departments which have been provided with the necessary equipment. The citizens older than 16, who want to replace their paper passports with ID cards, should wait till the proper bill is passed in the Parliament.

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State Migration Service of Ukraine launches online resource to check out name spelling in Latin letters

19 January 2016 – 1+1 TV Channel

The online resource launched by the State Migration Service of Ukraine will allow anyone to check the spelling of a name and a surname for the passport for travelling abroad. One will need to input the name in Ukrainian and the programme will show the Latin spelling in accordance to the rules adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

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Afghanistan is the top country of origin of asylum seekers in Ukraine

14 January 2016 — Ukrainska Pravda

Afghanistan is the top country of origin among asylum seekers in Ukraine, the press service of the State Migration Service (SMS) reported. In 2015, the SMS received 1,433 applications for refugee status or complementary protection from Afghans, 111 applications from Somalis and 86 applications from Russians.

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Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team