



European Commission notes progress in Ukraine's Visa Liberalization Action Plan implementation

8 May 2015 – European Commission

Ahead of the Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga on 21-22 May, the Commission is issuing two progress reports on the implementation by Georgia and Ukraine of their respective Visa Liberalization Action Plans (VLAP). This is a sign of the Commission's commitment and of the pace of the measures being taken by the two countries. The assessment found that, despite the exceptional circumstances that Ukraine currently faces, the progress achieved in the implementation of the second phase benchmarks of the VLAP has been noteworthy. The significant effort made by the Ukrainian authorities led to a coherent legislative framework and commitment to institutional reforms.

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Japan and IOM to contribute to restoration and social cohesion in Eastern Ukraine

5 May 2015 – International Organization for Migration

IOM, with funding from the Government of Japan, is launching a new project to support people living in Ukrainian Government-controlled conflict-affected areas of Donbas, Eastern Ukraine, through improved social and public infrastructure and new livelihoods opportunities. "As fighting and deterioration of human security in Ukraine has directly affected areas with a population of 5.2 million people and led to the displacement of over 1.2 million persons, we aim to promote local community empowerment and social cohesion as cornerstones in preventing further discord and paving the way for long-term solutions," said IOM Ukraine's Chief of Mission Manfred Profazi.

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Over two million people moved from Donbas,– UN

12 May 2015 – Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia

The total number of people who left their homes as the result of the military actions in the Donbas exceeded two million. More than a half of them are currently staying in other regions of Ukraine, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports.

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EUBAM assesses Mission's progress in Moldova and Ukraine

5 May 2015 – EU Neighbourhood Info Centre

The Advisory Board of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) has welcomed progress in customs, border management and trade in Moldova and Ukraine, and discussed future strategies. During the Advisory Board meeting in Odesa, attended by representatives from the Foreign Ministries, border and law enforcement agencies of Moldova and Ukraine, the EU Delegations to Moldova and Ukraine, as well as IOM, OSCE and UNDP, members reviewed the Mission's achievements in three key areas for its cooperation with Moldova and Ukraine: harmonization of legislation and practices in line with the EU standards; border security and confidence-building; strengthening professional networks, systems and infrastructure of the border and customs agencies of Moldova and Ukraine.

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Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum holds meeting in Minsk

15 May 2015 – EU Neighbourhood Info Centre

A two-day expert meeting of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum brought together nearly 50 experts and officials from EaP countries, EU Member States, academia, civil society and international organizations in Minsk, on 6-7 May. The meeting focused on comparing different practices, and views and approaches to labour migration procedures, focusing on admission, protection and control.

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Joint checkpoints on Ukraine-Slovakia border to start working soon – President Poroshenko

20 May 2015 – Interfax

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko announced that joint checkpoints on the Ukraine-Slovakia border would start working soon. "We have outlined specific steps in border guard cooperation... We are to initiate the work of joint checkpoints in order to shorten the time needed to cross the border, to foster friendship between Ukraine and Slovakia, and to combat corruption," Petro Poroshenko said at a joint press conference with President of Slovakia Andrej Kiska in Kyiv on 20 May 2015.

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Changes in Schengen visa application process for Ukrainian citizens

21 May 2015 – Delegation of the EU to Ukraine

As part of the worldwide introduction of the Visa Information System (VIS), the Schengen States will launch the VIS in Ukraine (and in other Eastern Partnership countries) on 23 June 2015. The major change for Ukrainian citizens is that all applicants would need to appear in person in order to provide biometric data (fingerprints and digital photography), which is a simple and discreet procedure. This concerns the applications for the short-term Schengen visas (max. 90 days in 180 days).

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Migration Service of Ukraine tests a mobile station for processing biometric documents

22 May 2015 – State Migration Service of Ukraine

On 21 May, the State Migration Service of Ukraine is piloting a mobile workstation for processing biometric documents. This device is intended for processing documents of citizens who urgently need to travel abroad, but because of health issues or disability are not able to come to the Migration Service in person.

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EU visa free regime for Ukraine: what needs to be done?

18 May 2015 – Ukraine Today

The Institute of World Policy, an NGO that promotes research and gives advice to public bodies on ways to promote European standards in Ukraine, published an infographic on 18 May, with six steps the Government still needs to take before the visa-free regime with the EU can be introduced.

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Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team