



Ukrainians to get visa-free travel to EU – Donald Tusk

24 November 2016 – BBC

Ukrainian citizens will be able to travel to most EU countries without a visa, European Council President Donald Tusk has announced. He said the country had met relevant standards "perfectly" and in the coming weeks EU officials would work out how the scheme will be implemented. The announcement was made at a meeting of Ukrainian and EU leaders in Brussels held on 24 November.

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European Parliament to consider suspension of visa-free regime for third countries in January 2017

29 November 2016 – Ukrainian News

The press release of the European Parliament reads that the mechanism of suspension of visa-free regime for third countries is likely to be considered at a first reading during the plenary session meeting of 18 January 2017. As reported earlier, the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the European Union (COREPER) has approved commencement of negotiations between the EU Council and the European Parliament on liberalization of the EU's visa regime for Ukrainian citizens. At the same time, according to the EU Council, visa liberalization for Ukraine should enter into force at the same time as the new suspension mechanism enters into force.

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Ombudsperson Valeria Lutkovska: "Problems of minorities should be perceived more attentively"

3 November 2016 – Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsperson) Ms. Valeriya Lutkovska spoke about minority's issues at the international conference "Two and Half Years of Conflict: the Impact on Tolerance and Perception of Minorities", organized in Kyiv by her office, IOM, and UNHCR. "Two and a half years of the conflict brought a huge number of problems for Ukraine which, as it appeared, we were not ready for. We need to comprehensively evaluate the current situation with minorities' rights, what can be addressed by state bodies and where the assistance of international organizations and their expert support is needed," noted Ms. Lutkovska.

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54 Russians ask for asylum in Ukraine this year

18 November 2016 – Ukrinform

481 people, including 54 citizens of the Russian Federation, have asked for asylum in Ukraine since the beginning of 2016, Petro Syniavsky, Deputy Director of the Department for Foreigners and Stateless Persons of the State Migration Service of Ukraine, announced during a meeting of the Ukrainian Parliament's Committee for Human Rights, National Minorities, and Interethnic Relations.

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Ukrainian border guards receive new equipment from EU

22 November 2016 – Ukraine Today

On 22 November, equipment and vehicles worth two million euros were officially handed over in Zhytomyr to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. This technical assistance is part of the SURCAP Phase 2 project, strengthening the capacity of border agencies of Ukraine and Belarus on protection of the joint border. The project is funded by the EU and implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

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Ukraine and Hungary agree on development of infrastructure at the border

24 November 2016 – KyivPost

Ukraine and Hungary agreed on financial cooperation, the development of checkpoints on the joint state border, infrastructure, as well as maintenance of bridges on the border. During the visit of Prime Minister of Ukraine Volodymyr Groysman to Hungary, the governments of Ukraine and Hungary signed a framework agreement for the provision of a loan on the terms of tied aid and a protocol of intent for the development of infrastructure on the state border between Ukraine and Hungary.

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UN General Assembly committee adopts resolution on human rights in Crimea

16 November 2016 – Interfax

The UN General Assembly committee has voted to adopt a resolution on human rights in Crimea, according to the press service of Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the UN. The document, inter alia, urges Russia to allow international human rights mechanisms, in particular the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, unimpeded access to Crimea in order to monitor human rights situation and asks the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a separate thematic report on the situation in the peninsula.

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Ukrainian Government increased one-time assistance to the victims of human trafficking

22 November 2016 – Interfax

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted a resolution to increase one-time assistance to the victims of human trafficking starting from 1 January 2017. According to the Resolution 833 as of 16 November, the Government established one-time assistance in amount of three living wages for the respective categories (minors under 6 years, minors of 6-18 years, employable citizens and disabled citizens).

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Verification of IDPs to be finalized by 8 December

8 November 2016 – Interfax

The Minister of Temporary Occupied Territories and IDPs, Vadym Chernysh, reported that the verification of internally displaced persons (IDPs) will be completed by 8 December 2016. “The problem of verification is to identify how many real IDPs we have and how many arrived only to register as IDPs. At the moment, we don’t have such statistics and according to the Ministry of Social Policy the verification will be finalized by 8 December,” Mr. Chernysh said.

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Spanish police busts smuggling ring that brought 6,000 people into the UK from Ukraine

11 November 2016 – The Telegraph

Spain's national police force announced that they had crushed the biggest people-smuggling ring transporting Ukrainians into the European Union and to their final destination of Britain. Police alleged that the gang successfully introduced 6,000 Ukrainians into Britain by issuing the immigrants with false ID documents and flying them into Ireland before catching a ferry to reach UK soil.

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Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team