

NEWS FROM UKRAINE

More Ukrainians working legally in Poland

The number of Ukrainian migrant workers who work legally in Poland increased last year, Polish Ambassador to Ukraine Henryk Litwin informed in December, 2011.

“Tens of thousands of Ukrainians are working in Poland, and more people are working legally, with work permits,” said Mr. Litwin.

The ambassador noted that there was a simplified procedure for Ukrainians to obtain work permits in Poland. “In fact, it is sufficient only to find an employer who wants to confirm the intention of employment by a special document, which will then be confirmed by the authorities of a province, and this document will be the basis for obtaining a work visa,” Mr. Litwin said.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 1 December, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=238575>

Ukrainians now can travel to Poland with ‘shopping visas’

Consulate General of Poland in Lviv (western Ukraine) now issues Schengen visas for shop-tours.

The first ‘shopping visa’ will be issued for a period of seven days, the second for up to a year. This visa, costing EUR 35, is available exclusively to the residents of Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Zakarpattia and Chernivtsi regions (west of the country).

In addition, to obtain such a visa, it is not necessary to submit income certificates, officially certified invitations from legal entities or natural persons, or to confirm a hotel reservation.

According to the new rules, to get a second ‘shopping visa’, the petitioner must provide a registered sale receipt confirming that during his first visit to Poland, he really bought something. The amount of goods purchased is not limited.

Consul General of Poland in Lviv Jaroslaw Drozd said: “We want the experiment to be successful and help people, to become one of the elements of the revitalization and liberalization of visa traffic.”

For 11 months of year, 2011, the Consulate General of Poland in Lviv had time to give more than 250,000 visas. About half of them are Schengen visas, half - national.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 1 December, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=238638>

Moldova welcomes Ukraine’s decision to simplify border crossing procedures

The Moldovan government has welcomed the decision by the Government of Ukraine to exclude Moldova from the list of countries whose citizens, while entering Ukraine, are obliged to provide guarantees of the financial security of their stay in the country.

“The decision by the Ukrainian Government promotes the positive development of bilateral relations and the political dialogue,” reads a statement released by the press service of the Moldovan Government.

According to the agreements reached earlier, on 30 November, 2011, the Government of Ukraine passed a resolution pursuant to which the Republic of Moldova will be removed from the list of countries whose nationals, while entering Ukraine, will have to provide guarantees of the financial security of their stay in the country, transiting through its territory and leaving the country.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 3 December, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=238828>

European Commission allocates EUR 105 million more for reform in Ukraine

The European Commission has approved a financial package to support public administration, regional development, energy efficiency and environmental protection reforms in Ukraine.

This part of the Annual Action Programme for year 2011 is worth EUR 105 million.

One component of the programme is dedicated to supporting Ukraine's efforts to reduce energy consumption through the contribution to the Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership Fund (also known as the Swedish Initiative). This should lead to lower emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases.

The amount of funding under this component will be EUR 15 million.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 5 December, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=238899>

AeroSvit, Ukraine International Airlines sign code sharing agreement

AeroSvit and Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) signed a code sharing agreement for several routes.

AeroSvit Director General Assistant for Public Relations Serhii Kutsyi, said that the airlines will cooperate on the Kyiv-Tel Aviv, Kyiv-London, Kyiv-Almaty, Kyiv-Astana and Kyiv-Donetsk routes.

The press secretary of UIA Yevhenia Satska, told Interfax-Ukraine that UIA will act as a carrier on the Kyiv-London route, while AeroSvit will be a marketing partner, while AeroSvit will fly on the Kyiv-Almaty and Kyiv-Astana routes, while UIA will be a marketing partner for the routes.

"This is the same code sharing agreement as with other UIA partners. The agreement will allow the companies to increase transit flows through the Boryspil international airport and improve the quality of products for passengers," Ms. Satska said.

"This is only commercial cooperation under standards code sharing agreements, such as AeroSvit have signed for the winter navigation period, widely expanding the list of new partners. Thanks to code sharing, the airlines are planning to increase the efficiency of joint flights thanks to growth of passenger transit though the adjustment of the schedule and creation of additional connections at the Boryspil airport," Mr. Kutsyi said.

The agreement took effect on 1 December, 2011.

UIA also signed a code sharing agreement with Dniprovia airline for the Kyiv-Lviv, Kyiv-Simferopol, Kyiv-Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv-Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv-Odesa routes.

Read more: Kyivpost, 5 December, 2011
http://www.kyivpost.com/news/business/bus_general/detail/118192/

Ukraine, Russia approve action plan on demarcation of joint border in 2012

Ukraine and Russia have approved an action plan on the demarcation of the joint border in year 2012, Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleksandr Dykusarov has said.

Mr. Dykusarov said at a briefing 6 December, 2011 that on 29-30 November, 2011 Moscow hosted the latest meeting of the sub-commission on border issues and the joint Ukrainian-Russian demarcation commission.

Mr. Dykusarov noted that the meeting addressed the development and functioning of border crossing points.

“After a meeting of the joint demarcation commission, the sides approved a plan of work on border demarcation in year 2012, which sets the schedule for holding the meetings of the commission and envisages the completion of the drafting of respective regulations and the beginning of work on the installment of boundary markers in Chernihiv and Sumy regions,” Mr. Dykusarov said.

Ukraine and Russia are planning soon to switch to working on the demarcation of the joint border.

Read more: Kyivpost, 6 December, 2011

<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/118269/>

Ukraine has simplified visa regime with 13 counties

For the last one year and a half Ukraine has signed agreements on simplification of visa regime or on visa free regime with 13 countries, Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleksandr Dykusarov told a briefing in December, 2011.

According to Mr. Dykusarov, another four agreements are close to completion.

Mr. Dykusarov also informed that Foreign Ministry of Ukraine pays priority attention to the rights of Ukrainian during visa application procedure. According to him, the Ministry uses all available diplomatic instruments to defend the rights and interests of Ukrainian citizens, including monitoring of observance of the European Union-Ukraine agreement on simplification of visa application procedures.

“In violations of the agreement occur we inform the European side about every single case,” Mr. Dykusarov said.

At the same time Mr. Dykusarov noted that violations in the process of visa application procedure are no longer of mass character, and statistics proves it. “In year 2008 there were 566 complains registered, in year 2009 - 318 violations, in year 2010 - 114 cases and this year only 74 claims,” Mr. Dykusarov summed up.

Read more: ForUm, 6 December, 2011

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2011/12/06/144111.html>

Ukraine, China to enhance cooperation in combating terrorism

The issues of combating terrorism and organized crime were discussed on 6 December, 2011 in Beijing by Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) of Ukraine Raisa Bohatyriova and a member of the State Council of China, Minister of Public Security of China Meng Jianzhu.

“Raisa Bohatyriova and Meng Jianzhu discussed the prospects for intensifying practical cooperation between specialized bodies of Ukraine and the Ministry of Public Security of China. Among the priorities of this cooperation they called, in particular, the sphere of combating the activities of international organized crime groups and terrorist organizations, as well as the development and implementation into everyday practice of an effective mechanism for exchange of relevant information,” the Ukrainian National Security Council stated.

In addition, as the NSDC Secretary noted during the meeting, cooperation in the fight against piracy may become one of the most promising areas of cooperation between Kyiv and Beijing.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 7 December, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=239102>

New rules for crossing customs checkpoints introduced in Ukraine

Preliminary documentary controls at checkpoints across Ukraine's customs border have been introduced from 15 December, 2011.

According to the press office of the State Customs Service of Ukraine, the functions of the institutions of prior documentary checks at the border were delegated to customs officers.

This practice has already been applied in the European Union and Russia.

The introduction of preliminary documentary controls at border crossing points means, first and foremost, the one-time exercising of state control during customs controls.

Before the introduction of this procedure, controls were carried out by employees of the concerned bodies both at checkpoints and domestic customs points during the clearance of goods.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 15 December, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=239927>

Kyiv, Brussels undertake to move towards introduction of visa-free travel

The European Union (EU) and Ukraine have confirmed their commitment to move towards the introduction of visa-free travel.

"The leaders took a positive note of the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan on visa liberalization and reconfirmed their shared commitment to move towards a visa-free travel regime in due course, provided that conditions for well managed and secure mobility set out in the Action Plan are in place," reads a joint statement adopted on the results of the Ukraine-EU Summit in Kyiv on 19 December, 2011.

As an intermediate step towards a visa-free travel regime, Kyiv and Brussels welcomed the conclusion of the talks on amending the visa facilitation agreement in view of the further facilitation of the issuing of visas to Ukrainian citizens.

During the summit, the leaders of the EU and Ukraine had an exchange on international and regional issues of common interest, in particular relations with Belarus and Russia.

"As regards the Republic of Moldova, the leaders noted their convergence of views on the Transdnistria settlement process, in the light of the recent resumption of official negotiations in the '5+2' format," the statement reads.

Read more: Kyivpost, 19 December, 2011
<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/119248/>

Fund for support of small innovation business being set up in Ukraine

Since 1 January, 2012, in Ukraine, the state innovation non-banking financial and credit institution will start working, named the Fund of Support of Small Innovation Business.

The Fund's task is to help small business, which is working in the innovation sphere. In particular, this institution will carry out a competition and render financial support of innovation projects on the pre-competition stage. In the draft budget for year 2012, it is planned to lay down the funds for work of this Fund to the amount of UAH 25 million.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 20 December, 2011
<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=159718>

Ukrainian Parliament ratifies social security agreement with Portugal

The Ukrainian Parliament has adopted the law on ratification of agreement between Ukraine and the Republic of Portugal on social security, signed in Lisbon on 7 July, 2009.

The document applies to the laws of Ukraine regarding: social security, which deals with illnesses (temporary disability), pregnancy and childbirth (maternity), allowances for burial, industrial accidents, occupational diseases and/or death for these reasons, unemployment, old age and disability pensions, as well as survivors' and seniority benefits, in accordance with the laws on obligatory state pension insurance, state assistance to families with children in the birth of a child and care for children under the age of three.

Concerning Portuguese laws, the agreement applies to: the social security system - legislation on social security patterns, which applies to most employees and self-employed persons; designated insurance - in the cases of sickness, maternity, paternity and adoption, professional diseases, unemployment, disability, certain age and death; the scheme, which applies to help for family expenses; the scheme for the compensation of damages in connection with accidents at work.

The agreement is aimed at developing mutual cooperation in the sphere of social protection of population of Ukraine and the Portuguese Republic and the resolution of questions of social security of citizens of both states.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 21 December, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=240445>

Ukrainian Parliament ratifies convention on legal status of migrant workers

The Ukrainian Parliament ratified the Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers and their Families of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The Convention applies to all migrant workers and their families in the host country legally. The document regulates relations arising throughout the whole cycle of migration of migrant workers. At the same time, the Convention does not apply to persons seconded by the parties to international organizations, seconded to participate in programmes of development or cooperation, as well as those engaged in entrepreneurial activity.

The Convention establishes that migrant workers enjoy in the territory of the host country rights which are granted to citizens under the laws of that party. In addition, the instrument stipulates that the parties-signatories to the convention should not tolerate slavery, forced labour, torture, cruel, or such that demeans the honor and dignity of human being, relations or punishment of migrants and their families. Article 10 of

the Convention stipulates that workers shall have the right to transfer and transport from the host country funds received as payment for work in the currency of the host country and in foreign currency in accordance with international treaties.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 22 December, 2011
<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=159904>

Ukraine, Turkey sign agreement on visa-free regime

Ukraine and Turkey signed an agreement on the visa-free regime of citizens' trips. The signature of the document took place in Ankara in the presence of President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich and Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"The agreement should introduce a visa-free regime for entrance, leaving, transit and stay of citizens of one party on the territory of other party state, based on valid travel documents, pointed out in the addendum to the present agreement, under condition that the term of their continuous stay does not exceed 30 days since the entrance date. At the same time, total term of their stay on the territory of other party should not exceed 90 days over each period of 180 days," the statement of the Presidential press service informs in December, 2011.

Mr. Yanukovich and Mr. Erdogan also signed a Joint Statement by results of holding the first meeting of the high level Strategic Council between Ukraine and Turkey.

The document proves the countries' striving to build relations of strategic partnership. A special attention was paid to strengthening of such priority trends of cooperation as power engineering, transport and modernization of the infrastructure.

In addition, agreements were signed between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Turkish Republic on air communication, on cooperation in the sphere of quarantine and plant protection, on cooperation in the sphere of fishery, economic and financial cooperation, as well as an Action Plan for development of bilateral relations between the countries for years 2012-2013, as well as the Programme of Cooperation in the sphere of culture for years 2012-2014.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 22 December, 2011
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=240640>

Migrant workers transfer in Ukraine about seven milliard dollars annually

About three million labour migrants from Ukraine are working abroad, and these people transfer in Ukraine about seven milliard dollars annually, expert on labour migration Tetiana Petrova told a press conference dedicated to the International Day of migrant worker in December, 2011.

"The most popular countries for labour migration are Russia, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Poland," Ms. Petrova said.

Tetiana Petrova also pointed out that with the beginning of the crisis in Europe accents of labour migration move from the European Union for Russia. "Till 2015 Russia will need about 20-25 million of migrant workers and the major part of this volume will be covered by specialists from Ukraine, as migration is the result of bad labour conditions within the country," Ms. Petrova summed up.

Read more: ForUm, 16 December, 2011
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2011/12/16/135644.html>