



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

European Parliament Members support amendments to Ukraine — EU visa agreement

The European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee supported amendments to the agreement on visa regime simplification between Ukraine and the EU. According to the press service of the European Parliament, 39 members of the Parliament voted in favour of this decision, three voted against and six abstained.

"The changes are intended to facilitate the issuance of short-term visas. The amended agreement simplifies the documentation requirements for the broader category of applicants, including representatives of civil society organizations, journalists and persons participating in international exhibitions, conferences and seminars," the statement said.

This agreement also clarifies the provisions for multiple entry visas. "Citizens with biometric passports will have advantages," the European Parliament stressed.

Read more: ForUm, 22 February, 2013
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/02/22/122922.html>

Ukraine to probe foreign adoptions

Ukraine has initiated a probe into living conditions and health of Ukrainian children adopted by foreigners, in the wake of a recent spat between Russia and the U.S. over alleged abuse of Russian children adopted by U.S. foster parents.

"We sent a letter to the (Ukrainian) Foreign Ministry with a request to conduct an investigation into living conditions and health of children adopted by foreign citizens," said Ukrainian Social Policy Minister Natalia Korolevska.

"We must have reliable information on every child who has been registered in Ukrainian consulates and diplomatic missions around the world," the Minister said.

According to Ms. Korolevska, foreigners adopted 806 Ukrainian children in 2012.

Read more: KyivPost, 24 February, 2013
<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine-abroad/zeenewscom-ukraine-to-probe-foreign-adoptions-320832.html>

Slovakia drastically increases issuance of Schengen multi-visas to Ukrainians

Since January, 2013, Slovakia has greatly expanded the number of categories of people, who can apply for multiple entry visas, having included business travel and tourism in the list.

As a result, the number of visas, issued by the diplomatic missions of Slovakia in Kyiv and Uzhgorod, has increased drastically. In January, Slovak diplomats gave six thousand visas to Ukrainians, which is almost twice as much as in December, 2012.

Under the rules, if a person has never been in a country — party to the Schengen agreement, a person will receive a visa for a period from six months to two years. If a person has already had the Schengen visa, he/she can be issued multiple entry visas for two - five years.



Slovak diplomats are convinced that they also benefit from such simplification: for a month of the new rules, Slovak tour operators and hotel owners have already felt the influx of Ukrainian tourists.

Read more: ForUm, 4 February, 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/02/04/114637.html>

Consulate of Poland in Lviv issued a quarter of all Schengen visas to Ukrainians in 2012

In 2012 the Consulate General of Poland in Lviv issued 25 per cent of all Schengen visas in Ukraine, Consul General of Poland in Lviv Andrzej Drozd reported. According to Mr. Drozd, this contributes to tourism promotion between Ukraine and Poland.

Read more: ForUm, 18 February, 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/02/18/124442.html>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine names countries not recommended for visits

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Ukraine recommends Ukrainians to abstain from visiting Egypt, Libya, Eritrea, Syria, Mali, Algeria, Pakistan and Tunisia.

According to Acting Director of the MFA Information Policy Department Yevhen Perebyinis, recommendations to abstain from visits are related to the difficult security situation in those countries.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 12 February, 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/mfa_names_countries_not_recommended_for_visits_298560

Irregular migrants arrive to Ukraine from Russia – representative of migration service

The majority of irregular migrants arrive to Ukraine from Russia, the First Deputy Head of the State Migration Service of Ukraine Viktor Sheibut stated during the press-lunch at the Kyiv office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

“90 per cent of persons arriving to our country irregularly do not appear out of the blue. Belarusians protect their borders very carefully. Nobody comes to us by sea. That is why we have only one open border — it is the long section between Russia and Ukraine,” Viktor Sheibut said.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 20 February, 2013

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/4986/illegal_migrants_arrive_to_ukraine__representative_of_migration_service

Migrants transferred to Ukraine USD 4.3 billion in 2012

Last year, USD 4.3 billion was transferred to Ukraine. This figure was published by UNIAN with reference to the official site of the National Bank of Ukraine. Meanwhile, transfers from Ukraine amounted to USD 737 million. Within the country, UAH 21,568 billion and USD 12 million (equivalent) were transferred.



According to the World Bank data, in 2011 remittances to Ukraine reached USD 6.6 billion.

By the way, according to the World Bank, global remittances from workers employed outside their home countries in 2012 amounted to USD 406 billion, which is 6.5 per cent more than the last year's figure.

Read more: Uzhgorod.in, 16 February 2013

http://uzhgorod.in/en/news/2013/fevral/migrant_workers_transferred_to_ukraine_4_3_billion_u_s_dollars

Almost two thousand persons sought asylum in Ukraine last year

According to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, 1,860 persons, including children, submitted application about provision of refugee status in Ukraine in 2012.

Almost one third of them are citizens of Afghanistan.

63 persons obtained refugee status and 89 persons were recognized as persons in need of additional protection.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 8 February, 2013

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/4918/almost_2_thousand_persons_sought_asylum_in_ukraine_last_year

Over 23 million foreigners visit Ukraine in 2012 - statistics

Last year, Ukraine was visited by 23 million foreigners. Most visitors came from Russia, Moldova, Belarus and Poland.

Thus, the number to Russians entering the territory of Ukraine amounted to 9.5 million, Moldovans 4.8 million, Belarusians 3 million and Poles 1.4 million, according to the State Statistics Service.

It is noted that of the total amount of visitors, 16.7 million came to Ukraine for private business purposes, 940 thousand for tourism, 350 thousand for official business purposes, and 24 thousand people came for studying. 40 thousand foreigners immigrated.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 25 February, 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/over_23_million_foreigners_visit_ukraine_in_2012___statistics_299279

Ukrainian Minister of Education calculates how much Ukrainian universities earn on foreigners

Ukrainian universities earn about UAH 4,300 billion per year on training of foreign students under contract, Education and Science, Youth and Sports Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk said at a press conference, ForUm correspondent reports.

The Minister said that as of 1 January, 2013, 60,300 foreign students studied in Ukraine.

According to Mr. Tabachnyk, the number of students from Europe and North America studying in Ukraine increased by four thousand.

Mr. Tabachnyk noted that the number of Ukrainians studying abroad is several times less.

Read more: ForUm, 25 February, 2013

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/02/25/164056.html>

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Compiled by Communications team of IOM Ukraine