



## NEWS FROM UKRAINE

### **President of Ukraine: Government gradually settles problems of Crimean Tatars**

The Government of Ukraine gradually settles problems related to relocation and resettlement of Crimean Tatars, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich said at a meeting of the Public Humanitarian Council, according to the president's press service.

"There is progress in this issue. At first reading the Parliament of Ukraine passed the law on the restoration of rights of persons deported for ethnic reasons. Still, there is much work to be done," the President said.

Mr. Yanukovich noted that Ukraine, due to its unique geographic position, is an important branch of the global migration process. That's why ethnic proportion of population is constantly changing.

"Recent migrants and refugees play a significant role in development of international relations. State and society should be ready for such processes, react adequately and provide conditions to ensure rights and freedoms of all ethnic groups in Ukraine using the world experience," the President said.

**Read more:** Kyiv Post, 3 July, 2012

[http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/yanukovich-government-gradually-settles-problems-o.html#.T\\_QIbZGsZVR](http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/yanukovich-government-gradually-settles-problems-o.html#.T_QIbZGsZVR)

### **President of Ukraine says no racism and xenophobia in Ukraine**

There is no racism or xenophobia in Ukraine and the conflicts that sometimes occur on ethnic grounds are of the local character, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich said.

"In our country, as well as in any other country in which many nationalities live, unfortunately, misunderstandings on ethnic grounds happen. Unlike in many other countries, manifestations of inter-ethnic and inter-religious hostility [in Ukraine] are of a local character and do not grow into conflicts," Viktor Yanukovich said at the sitting of the Public Humanitarian Council in Kyiv on 3 July, 2012. According to the President, holding of Euro 2012 in Ukraine showed that all attempts to discredit Ukraine to the world community failed.

The head of the state also noted that no case of conflict on inter-ethnic or inter-religious grounds was registered during Euro 2012.

**Read more:** Kyiv Post, 3 July, 2012

[http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/yanukovich-says-no-racism-and-xenophobia-in-ukrain.html#.T\\_QNJIEZ9by](http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/yanukovich-says-no-racism-and-xenophobia-in-ukrain.html#.T_QNJIEZ9by)

### **European Commission recommends EU Council to further facilitate visa regime with Ukraine**

The European Commission has recommended that the Council of the European Union approves signing of the Agreement between the EU and Ukraine amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas.



This is stipulated in the European Commission's document of 5 July, 2012: "The [European] Commission considers that the objectives set by the [EU] Council in its negotiating directives were attained and that the draft amending Agreement is acceptable to the [European] Union."

The draft agreement simplifies the rules for issuing visas to Ukrainians and expands a list of categories of such citizens.

The agreement also clarifies the provisions on the period of validity of multiple-entry visas. The document also states that external service providers with whom EU member states cooperate in view of issuing visas can charge a service fee of up to EUR 30.

The draft agreement also envisages the cancellation of visa requirements for holders of biometric service passports for a period not exceeding 90 days within six months.

As reported, Ukraine and the EU signed an agreement on visa facilitation on 18 June, 2007, and it came into force on 1 January, 2008. In December 2011, the parties completed negotiations on the introduction of amendments to the document foreseeing the further liberalization of the visa regime. The document was initialed on 16 February, 2012, and the process on its preparation for signing started.

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 10 July, 2012

[http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/european\\_commission\\_recommends\\_eu\\_council\\_facilitate Visa\\_regime\\_with\\_ukraine\\_285339](http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/european_commission_recommends_eu_council_facilitate Visa_regime_with_ukraine_285339)

## **Ambassador: European Commission admits violations in visa issuance to Ukrainians**

The European Commission admits the systemic violation in the issuance of visas to the Ukrainians and is ready to eliminate them, the Ambassador of Ukraine to the EU Kostiantyn Yelisiyev informed in his letter. The Ambassador noted that during the meeting with the Director General of Directorate of Internal Affairs of the European Commission Stefano Manservizi on 9 July, 2012, the issues of compliance with the EU Visa Code provisions and the EU-Ukraine Agreement on visa facilitation by the certain embassies and consulates of the EU member states were discussed.

**Read more:** Kyiv Post, 16 July, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/forum-european-commission-admits-violations-in-vis.html>

## **Italian consulate suspends issuing of tourist and business visas for Ukrainians**

Italy's consulate in Kyiv has suspended the issuing of tourist and business visas for Ukrainian citizens because of an excessive increase in the number of applications. "According to an order by the Italian consulate, the registration and receipt of documents for tourists has been suspended because of the excessive increase in the number of applications. The registration for the submission of documents for business visas will be possible from 23 July, 2012," reads a statement posted on the web site of the Italian visa centre in Kyiv.

Documents for all other types of visas are submitted on common grounds and through preliminary registration, the centre said.

**Read more:** Interfax, 17 July, 2012

<http://www.interfax.com.ua/eng/main/111357/>



## Polish visa centre opens in Crimea

A centre for receiving Polish visa applications opened in Simferopol on 9 July, 2012, the Information Policy Department of the Crimean Council of Ministers reported.

Residents of Crimea will be able to get visas for Poland and Europe under a simplified scheme at the centre. Polish visa centres are already operating in Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Ternopil, Kyiv, Odesa, Rivne, Lutsk, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Khmelnytskyi.

According to the Crimean Council of Ministers, the diplomatic missions of seven countries and three representative offices of international organizations are currently operating in Crimea.

**Read more:** Kyiv Post, 10 July, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/polish-visa-centre-opens-in-crimea.html>

## Poland to intensify cross-border cooperation with Ukraine

Poland is planning to intensify cross-border cooperation with Ukraine, Vice-Marshal of the Sejm of Poland Marek Kuchciński said.

“We would like to draw attention to the cross-border cooperation between Poland and Ukraine, which now is not developing sufficiently,” Mr. Kuchciński told journalists at a meeting of the parliamentary Assembly of Ukraine and Poland in Yaremche, Ivano-Frankivsk region, on 9 July, 2012.

Mr. Kuchciński noted that although Poland and Ukraine have 500 kilometres of joint border, cooperation is not as effective as on the Polish-German border.

“Before Poland’s accession to the European Union, there were more than 50 checkpoints on the Polish-German border. Now the number of checkpoints with Ukraine is six times lower. We have to improve this,” Mr. Kuchciński said.

**Read more:** Kyiv Post, 9 July, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/poland-to-intensify-cross-border-cooperation-with-.html>

## Russian trafficker of Ukrainian women sentenced to six years in prison

On 6 July, 2012, the Kyiv District Court of Kharkiv sentenced 42-year-old female non-working resident of Belgorod (Russia) to six years imprisonment with confiscation of property for trafficking Kharkiv female residents to Russia for sexual exploitation, the Kharkiv region prosecutor’s office reported.

Within December 2010 - February 2011, a Russian resident systematically recruited Ukrainian women who experienced financial troubles and trafficked them to Russia for sexual exploitation.

**Read more:** ForUm, 7 July, 2012

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/07/10/143954.html>



## Ukrainian sentenced to life in US prison for human trafficking

Ukrainian national Omelian Botsvyniuk was sentenced to life imprisonment plus 20 years for leading a human trafficking ring based in Philadelphia, U.S, that lured its victims into forced labour, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reports.

“A prosecutor in Philadelphia says Omelian Botsvyniuk’s human trafficking operation was “modern-day slavery,” the report says. Mr. Botsvyniuk and his brother were found guilty of forcing crews of desperate villagers from their homeland to work cleaning homes and businesses in Philadelphia and nearby states for little or no pay. The brother, Stepan Botsvyniuk, also faces up to 20 years in prison for racketeering.

Two other brothers of Omelian, Mykhaylo and Dmytro, also have been indicted in the case and are awaiting extradition from Canada. A fifth brother, Yaroslav, is a fugitive and believed to be hiding in Ukraine, which has no extradition treaty with the United State.

From 2000 to 2007, Omelian Botsvyniuk ran an organization that smuggled about 30 young Ukrainians to the United States with promises of good jobs with free room and board.

The Botsvyniuk brothers used beatings, sexual assaults, and threats against family members to keep the victims in peonage, forcing them to work to pay off enormous “debts” for the road to America.

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 17 July, 2012

[http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian\\_sentenced\\_to\\_life\\_in\\_us\\_prison\\_for\\_human\\_trafficking\\_285629](http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_sentenced_to_life_in_us_prison_for_human_trafficking_285629)

## Visa-free regime between Ukraine and Turkey enters into force in August, 2012

The agreement between the Governments of Ukraine and Turkey stipulating that citizens of two countries may stay on the territory of another country for a maximum of 30 days from the date of entry without obtaining a visa will come into force on 1 August, 2012 the press service of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine reports.

The agreement also provides that the total period of stay on the territory of another state should not exceed 90 days within 180 days from the date of first entry.

At the same time the Ukrainians and the Turks who intend to stay on another country’s territory for longer than 90 days or for the purpose of employment must obtain a visa in compliance with the legislation of the host state.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry reports that travel documents valid for Ukrainians’ travels to Turkey include the foreign passport of citizen of Ukraine, the child’s travel document, the seafarer’s identity card and the aircrew member’s card.

**Read more:** ForUm, 17 July, 2012

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/07/17/141200.html>



## Ukraine to strengthen the social and legal protection of migrant workers

Council meeting on labour migration of Ukrainian citizens under the Government of Ukraine has been held in the Ministry of Social Policy chaired by the Deputy Minister of Social Policy Vasyl Nadraha with the participation of the Head of the International Organization for Migration Mission in Ukraine Manfred Profazi and the National Coordinator of the International Labour Organization in Ukraine Vasyl Kostrytsia. The meeting was focused on current problems, requirements and needs of migrants, interstate coordination of social protection of migrants, as well as the protection of the rights and freedoms of Ukrainian seamen.

The Ministry noted that one of the main tasks now is to extend the contractual framework with the countries in which the number of labour migrants — citizens of Ukraine — is weighty. So it should strengthen the social and legal protection of migrant workers and the adoption of the Law “On labour migration”, a project which has already been developed by the Ministry of Social Policy.

**Read more:** Government Portal, 7 July, 2012

[http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/en/publish/article?art\\_id=245370738&cat\\_id=244314975](http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/en/publish/article?art_id=245370738&cat_id=244314975)

## Lviv International Airport boosts number of direct international flights

It is now possible to fly directly to more than 20 countries from Lviv’s King Danylo Halytskyi International Airport, the airport’s press service has reported.

According to the service, from the beginning of July, 2012, the airport started to carry out flights to Tel Aviv (Israel), Athens (Greece) and Zadar (Croatia). The direct flight to Bourgas (Bulgaria) is also planned.

“For the first quarter of the year 2012, the Lviv international airport serviced over 200,000 passengers, which is 55 per cent more than last year,” the airport reported.

According to the report, currently 14 foreign and four Ukrainian air carriers fly from this airport. Flights are carried out on 22 international routes.

**Read more:** Kyiv Post, 11 July, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/lviv-international-airport-boosts-number-of-direct.html>