

## NEWS FROM UKRAINE

### Ukrainian tourists now able to visit Argentina without visas

A visa-free travel regime between Ukraine and Argentina started operating from 2 October, 2011, the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported in October, 2011.

Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleksandr Dykusarov said at a briefing on 4 October, 2011 that a respective agreement between the Governments of Ukraine and Argentina on the cancellation of visas foresees there being the opportunity for the citizens of both countries to enter, transit and depart from the territory of both countries without having to have visas either as tourists or for other non-profit activities for a period not exceeding 90 days per calendar year.

**Read more:** Kyivpost, 4 October, 2011  
<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/114097/>

### Ukraine, Vietnam considering creation of free trade area

The Ukrainian and Vietnamese Prime Ministers discussed the possibility of forming a free trade area between their states.

“During our talks today we tackled the possibility of forming a free trade area,” Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said during a joint with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung press conference in Kyiv on 5 October, 2011. According to Mr. Azarov, the sides discussed the procedures necessary for the simplification of mutual trade.

**Read more:** Kyivpost, 5 October, 2011  
<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/114183/>

### Foreigners face detention despite arriving legally

When the Afghan family with valid passports and visas flew into Kyiv’s Boryspil airport on 6 September, 2011 they expected to be spending the next few days with their relatives in Odesa.

But it was another 72 hours before the two parents and their one-year-old child saw their relatives after Ukrainian border guards refused to admit them to the country, instead locking them in a small room without food or drinking water.

The story of this family, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of reprisals, is a common problem for many foreigners, who are denied entry despite having all the correct paperwork, human rights activists say.

**Read more:** Kyivpost, 7 October, 2011  
<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/114317/#ixzz1b88Y3eQg>

## Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to help Ukraine in securing minority rights

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) will support the efforts of the Ukrainian authorities to strengthen the legislative framework to secure the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, as well as addressing issues related to housing, social adaptation and integration of former deportees in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

This was discussed during a meeting of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Kostiantyn Hryshchenko with OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebaek in October, 2011.

The sides praised the level of interaction on these issues, stressing a commitment to continue a constructive dialogue on the rights of national minorities in Ukraine, as well as securing the rights of ethnic Ukrainians living in other states.

**Read more:** ForUm, 11 October 2011

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2011/10/11/112028.html>

## Customs control considerably simplified by Ukraine

The Ukrainian Government considerably simplified customs control having approved a procedure for carrying out and having reduced to the minimum the number of instances in passing the preliminary documentary examination directly at checkpoints.

This mechanism simplifies and optimizes the customs clearance of goods by way of delegation of functions to customs bodies on carrying out of state sanitary-epidemiological, veterinary, phytosanitary and ecological control at checkpoints. State types of control will be fully and professionally carried out by specialists in the sphere of veterinary medicine and quarantine of plants at on-site customs houses. At checkpoints, only “paper” documents will be checked for all instances.

**Source:** National Radio Company of Ukraine, 12 October, 2011

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=154587>

## Ukrainian brothers convicted of forced labour in United States

Two Ukrainian brothers were convicted 12 October, 2011 in a scheme to smuggle desperate villagers into the United States to work long hours at little or no pay cleaning retail stores and office buildings.

“They call it modern-day slavery,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Velez said. “It’s hiding in plain sight.”

Nine workers who testified described being raped, beaten or threatened by Omelian Botsvyniuk, 52 years old, a compact man who glared at prosecutors after the verdict and shouted at them in his native tongue as he was led out in handcuffs. Mr. Botsvyniuk had denied the accusations.

The jury found him guilty of using sexual and physical violence to intimidate workers.

Mr. Botsvyniuk faces 20 years to life in prison on racketeering and extortion charges. His brother Stepan, 36 years old, was convicted of the racketeering enterprise but acquitted of extortion. He faces up to 20 years in prison.

The workers said they were promised USD 500 a month and came to pursue the American dream. Instead, they made little progress as they tried to pay off the cost of their journey to the U.S. and other debts owed to the brothers.

**Read more:** Kyivpost, 13 October, 2011

<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/114668/>

## **President of Ukraine enacts law accelerating forced expulsion of foreigners**

President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich endorsed Ukrainian Parliament's amendments to the Code of Administrative Procedure concerning the characteristics of cases on expulsion of foreigners and stateless persons, the press service of the head of state reported in October, 2011.

The law aims at accelerating forced expulsion of foreigners and stateless persons by reducing the time of administrative proceedings on their detention and forced expulsion.

Administrative cases shall be settled by the court within one month from the date of receipt of the complaint, except for cases of detention in order to ensure expulsion, which are considered urgent. The cases are considered by the court with obligatory participation of the parties.

Court decisions (rulings, determinations) of the first instance after their review in appellate courts, as well as appellate court decisions, may be appealed in cassation.

Claims and appeals may be submitted to the Administrative Court without paying the court fee.

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 14 October, 2011

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=234281>

## **Ukrainian labour migrants: strangers among strangers**

There are at least 10 times more Ukrainian labour migrants abroad than foreign labour migrants in Ukraine.

In all times there were always a lot of people looking for a better life abroad. Due to "erased" borders in Europe and fall of the "iron curtain" in the post-soviet area the number of labour migrants is continuously increasing. Today 250 million people (3% of total population of the planet) live outside their country of birth, mentioned Professor Rainer Muenz, the speaker at the International Conference "The Future of Migration in Ukraine", which took place in Kyiv. It doesn't matter one thinks it's right or wrong, if you think of modern day globalization, these processes are inevitable. It is important, stated Chief of International Organization for Migration Mission in Ukraine Mr. Manfred Profazi, to learn to manage migration flows and increase benefit, while decreasing risks.

**Read more:** Glavred, 14 October, 2011

<http://www.glavred.info/archive/2011/10/15/142816-7.html>

## Ukraine, Russia facilitate cross-border, strengthen inter-regional cooperation

A number of new bilateral agreements were signed during the Second Ukraine-Russia Interregional Economic Forum in Donetsk, which was attended by Presidents of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich and President of Russia Dmitrii Medvedev in October, 2011.

In particular, the parties signed three intergovernmental agreements: on crossing the Ukrainian-Russian state border by the residents of border regions, on cooperation in joint control of persons, vehicles and goods on the state border, and on cooperation in the development of crossing points on the Ukrainian-Russian state border. Customs services of the neighbouring countries signed a protocol on mutual recognition of the individual results of customs control of goods and vehicles during customs proceedings in crossing the Ukrainian-Russian border, and a joint statement on immediate admission of goods with limited shelf life across the border.

Both Ukrainian and Russian regions enlarged their contractual base.

In particular, Ukraine's Donetsk region signed with Russia's Krasnodar area an agreement on trade, economic, scientific, technical, social and cultural cooperation, as well as strengthened with new items a similar agreement previously signed with Kursk region.

Zaporizhia and Novosibirsk regions, Crimea and Nizhnii Novhorod region have also signed agreements on trade, economic, scientific, technical, social and cultural cooperation.

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 18 October, 2011  
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=234603>

## Ukrainians may visit Brazil without visa since 4 November, 2011

A visa-free regime between Ukraine and Brazil comes into force since 4 November, 2011 Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleksandr Dykusharov informed in October, 2011.

"4 November, 2011, the agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Brazil about refusal from visas, signed 2 December, 2009, comes into force," Mr. Dykusharov said.

The agreement provides for a visa-free entry of Ukrainian and Brazilian citizens with the aim of tourism for a period no more than 90 days and no more than 180 days since the date of the first entry. A foreign passport will be a travel document for Ukrainian citizens for entry to Brazil.

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 18 October, 2011  
<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=234578>

## Commonwealth of Independent States free trade deal may come into force early next year

The free trade zone agreement between members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) may come into force in January, 2012, Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov informed in October, 2011.

The treaty, signed by CIS prime ministers on 18 October, 2011, is yet to be ratified by member states.

The agreement eliminates export and import duties on a host of goods. It also contains a number of exemptions that will ultimately be phased out.

The agreement was signed by all the CIS states except Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

**Read more:** RIA Novosti, 19 October, 2011

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20111019/167840721.html>

## European Union to grant Ukraine EUR 30 million to tackle problem of irregular migrants

The European Union (EU) has allocated EUR 30 million to address the problems of irregular migrants in Ukraine, strengthen the national policy on migration, as well as to build seven temporary accommodation centres and two migrant detention centres over the next 2.5 years.

This support is provided in the context of the Agreement on Readmission between the EU and Ukraine. It is planned that the centres of temporary accommodation of migrants will be created in Lviv, Zakarpattia, Sumy and Luhansk regions, and migrant detention centres in Donetsk and Mykolaiv regions. It is expected that the construction of temporary accommodation centres will begin this fall and finish by the spring of year 2014.

**Source:** National Radio Company of Ukraine, 20 October, 2011

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/index.php?id=148&listid=155138>

## European Union, Ukraine agreed on free trade details

European Union (EU)-Ukrainian negotiations on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement were successfully completed on 19 October, 2011 during the meeting of EU Commissioned De Gucht and Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Kliuiev.

The European Union's executive body has reached an agreement on the details of a free-trade deal with Ukraine and it is now up to the country's political leadership to make that accord happen, a spokesman for the commission said on 20 October.

It is "now up to Ukraine's leadership to create the right political conditions to make the deal materialize," the spokesman said, quoting European Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht.

In his turn, Mr. Kliuiev underlined that the sides managed to agree on all key positions of the trade part of the agreement.

"We have charged experts to conduct necessary technical work in the nearest future," Mr. Kliuiev.

**Read more:** ForUm, 20 October 2011

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2011/10/20/123522.html>

## The official statement of the European Union Delegation to Ukraine on visa issuing restrictions to Ukrainian citizens

A lot of media sources have published the statements on approval the European diplomats' decision to reduce issuing Schengen visas by 70% visas to Ukrainian citizens. However, the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Ukraine refuted these statements.

“The EU Delegation to Ukraine informs that the EU states didn't introduce the restrictions on issuing visas for any group of Ukrainian citizens” – the official website of the EU Delegation to Ukraine informed in October, 2011.

**Read more:** Europe without Barriers, 21 October, 2011

<http://novisa.com.ua/news/The-official-statement-of-the-EU-Delegation-to-Ukraine-on-visa-issuing-restrictions-to-Ukrainian-citizens/en>

## Ukrainian labour migrants may become “new Italians”

Ukrainian labour migrants may become “new Italians”. In this country, according to the people's initiative a campaign started “Italy also Means Me,” called to lobby reforms of the immigration legislation, editor-in-chief of The Ukrainian Newspaper in Italy Marianna Soronevych told to The National News Agency of Ukraine in October, 2011.

“One of the bills provides for considerable changes in drawing up Italian citizenship for foreigners. In particular, this is a norm about the unhampered issue of an Italian passport to children of immigrants, born in Italy. Second, to grant possibility to foreigners residing in the country at least five years to participate in local elections,” organizers of the action say.

Organizers noted that a campaign as regards “new Italians” finds more and more support among citizens. All over the country, the number of committees grows, organizing gathering of signatures. The newly set up website [www.litaliasonoanchio.it](http://www.litaliasonoanchio.it) tells about their activities.

For presentation of bills for consideration of the Italian Parliament it is necessary that each of them till the end of February, 2012 gathered no less than 50,000 signatures of Italian citizens. Promoters of the action consider this aim as achievable since over the first week of October, 2011 10,000 signatures have been gathered.

Taking into account the economic situation on Ukrainian labour migrants Motherland, many Ukrainians from the fourth wave of labour migration are not against residing in Italy. According to statistics of the Italian Ministry of Interior, legally over 250,000 of Ukrainian citizens are residing in Italy. In addition to the legal immigration, there is also a large part of irregular migrants, their number can make up from 200,000 to 300,000.

The official statistics does not take into account children under 14 years of age, written down in documents of their parents and waiting for getting long-term visas, as well as citizens who have already acquired Italian citizenship (mainly through marriage).

**Read more:** The National News Agency of Ukraine, 25 October, 2011

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/order/?id=235201>