



# Immigration News Highlights

Issue 03 – 18 January 2022



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below.



## Americas

### Canada

#### **Temporary foreign agricultural, food, and seafood workers must quarantine**

A 14-day quarantine period is required for all partially or unvaccinated temporary foreign workers in agricultural, food, and seafood sectors arriving in British Columbia. Further, if a Day 1 test is given at Vancouver International Airport (YVR), a quarantine is to be observed by vaccinated workers until they test negative. [Read more](#)

### US

#### **USCIS Provides Clarifying Guidance on O-1 Nonimmigrants in Arts vs. Motion Picture and Television**

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services issued a clarifying guidance on the determination of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as a person of extraordinary ability in the arts or as a person of extraordinary achievement in the motion picture or television industry when a case has elements of both. [Read more](#)

### US

#### **Adjustment of Status Filing Charts from the Visa Bulletin**

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced the State Department's Dates for Filing chart for the month of February, to determine whether employment-based applicants are eligible to file for adjustment of status. [Read more](#)



## Asia Pacific

### Australia

#### **Foreign students allowed extra hours to ease worker shortage**

The government of Australia agree to a proposal allowing student visa holders to work up to 80 hours per fortnight from the earlier 40 hours. The measure was taken considering the labor shortages in the country due to COVID-19. [Read more](#)

### Israel

#### **Israeli Ministers Advance Stricter Version of Controversial Citizenship Law**

A ministerial committee has advanced a citizenship bill which will prohibit Israeli citizenship for Palestinians who are married to Israelis. [Read more](#)

### Kuwait

#### **Kuwait among 52 countries not required to acquire visa for trip**

Effective 1 January 2022, all Kuwaiti citizens can travel visa-free to Tajikistan for a maximum stay of 30 days. A visa application will be required past the limit of 30 days. [Read more](#)

### Philippines

#### [Philippines: ACR I-Card Registration Due 1 March 2022](#)

All registered ARC I-card holders in Philippines, are required to file their Annual Report with the Bureau of Immigration office on or before 1 March 2022 to avoid negative impacts on their immigration status. [Read more](#)

### Thailand

#### [Applicants for Thai citizenship must pass new Thai language test](#)

Thailand approved new regulations requiring citizenship-seeking foreigners to pass a language test conducted by a subcommittee to prove primary level competence in the Thai language. Furthermore, the authorities have increased the application fee from TBH 5000 to TBH 10,000 for adults and from TBH 2,500 to TBH 5,000 for adults. [Read more](#)



## Europe and Africa

### Bulgaria

#### [Bulgaria adds new countries to COVID-19 red list](#)

Bulgaria has added ten new countries to the COVID-19 red list, effectively suspending the movement of nationals from these countries to Bulgaria. [Read more](#)

### Cyprus

#### [All Persons Travelling to Cyprus Can Take a PCR or Rapid Test Before Departure from January 14](#)

From 14 January 2022, all travelers above the age of 12, who enter Cyprus, need to provide a PCR test performed within 72 hours before their departure or a rapid antigen test taken in the 24 hours before their departure. [Read more](#)

### Czech Republic

#### [Czechia Imposes Stricter Entry Rules for Citizens of Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria & Germany](#)

Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, and Germany were added to Czech Republic's red list. Unvaccinated travelers from these countries will be subject to testing requirements for travel into the Czech Republic. [Read more](#)

### Estonia

#### [Estonia Tightens Travel Restrictions for Arrivals from All European Countries Due to COVID-19](#)

Estonia added all European countries except the Vatican City to the red list. A ten-day quarantine period will be required for the unvaccinated travelers from these countries. [Read more](#)

### Estonia

#### [Estonia Shortens Quarantine Period to 7 Days](#)

The government of Estonia has shortened the quarantine period, for travelers returning citizens, to seven days. [Read more](#)

### European Union

#### [EU Council Removes Argentina, Australia & Canada from Safe Third Countries List](#)

The European Union (EU) removed Argentina, Australia, and Canada from the list of countries with no travel restrictions. The decision was based on the increased infections observed in these countries. [Read more](#)

### European Union

#### [EU Commission Proposes to Partially Suspend Visa Waiver Agreement with Vanuatu](#)

The European Union (EU) has proposed to partially suspend the visa waiver program which allows a 90-day visa-free stay in the EU for citizens of Vanuatu. The EU consider Vanuatu's investment-based citizenship program as a security risk considering a low rejection rate, short processing times, and no systematic exchange with the country of origin. [Read more](#)

### Finland

#### [Finland Extends Current COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Until January 31](#)

COVID-19 travel restrictions requiring a proof of vaccination for entry in Finland will remain in force until 31 January 2021. An exception is provided to travelers who cannot be vaccinated due to medical reasons requiring them to take a COVID-19 test at most 48 hours before arrival. [Read more](#)

#### France

#### [France Tightens COVID-19 Measures for Everyone, Including Tourists](#)

A COVID-19 certificate will be required by travelers above the age of 12 years and two months to enter the French territory. The requirement does not apply for travelers coming from the Schengen Area and all travelers below the age of 12 year. [Read more](#)

#### France

#### [France Increases Minimum Salary Requirements for Talent Passport Residence Permit](#)

The French national agency announced an increase of 0.9 per cent for the minimum wage requirement for the Talent Passport applicants. From 1 January 2022, a minimum hourly wage of EUR 10.57 will be needed to be offered by employers. [Read more](#)

#### France

#### [Official: France Eases Entry Rules for UK Travelers](#)

From 14 January 2021, all people from UK can travel to France without providing a compelling reason to enter the country. All travelers must provide a COVID-19 test taken at most 24 hours before arrival. [Read more](#)

#### Germany

#### [Turkey Nationals Vaccinated with Turkovac Face Tightened Entry Rules When Reaching Germany](#)

Turkish nationals vaccinated with the Turkovac vaccine will not be allowed to enter Germany as the vaccine is yet to be approved by the European Medical Agency. Only exception is a travel for an essential purpose after serving a ten-day quarantine period, like serving as a witness. [Read more](#)

#### Germany

#### [Germany Lowers Salary Requirements for EU Blue Card for 2022](#)

On 1 January 2022, the Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees announced a 0.7 per cent reduction for the minimum annual gross salary requirement for a German EU Blue Card. Effectively, a gross salary of EUR 56,400 will be required to obtain an EU Blue Card in Germany. The salary requirement is reduced to EUR 43,992 for jobs in the occupational fields of mathematics, computer science, the natural sciences, engineering, and human medicine. [Read more](#)

#### Germany

#### [Germany Travel Restrictions: Another 35 Countries Added to High-Risk List](#)

Germany has added 35 more countries to high-risk list considering the rising rate of infections in these countries. Travelers from these countries must register and present a proof of negative test or vaccination before entering Germany. [Read more](#)

#### Hungary

#### [Hungary Cuts Down Vaccine Certificate Validity to 6 Months from February 15](#)

Hungary has lowered the vaccine certificate validity to six months. A second vaccine certificate will only be valid only if the administration was done, at most, six months prior to the entry in Hungary. The measure will be effective from 15 February 2022. [Read more](#)

#### Italy

#### [Italy to Issue 67k Work Permits Max for Third Country Nationals in 2022](#)

The Italian Ministry of Interior Affairs has set the maximum number of work permits for 2022 at 69,700. Among these, 27,700 will be reserved for non-seasonal, self-employed subordinate work and conversions; 20,000 for non-seasonal subordinate work in sectors of freight transport for third parties, construction and hotel tourism; and 7,700 for those who have completed training and education programs in their countries of origin, workers of Italian origin residing in Venezuela, and self-employed persons. [Read more](#).

## Latvia

### [Latvia Extends Entry Measures for EU/Schengen Area Countries for Another Week](#)

Latvia has added all Schengen countries except the Vatican City in the orange list. The unvaccinated and unrecovered travelers from these countries must observe a ten-day quarantine upon entry into Latvia. [Read more](#)

## Lithuania

### [Lithuania Shortens Entry Quarantine Obligation to Seven Days](#)

The Lithuanian authorities have lowered quarantine requirements from ten to seven days. The requirement applies to all travelers coming from red and grey countries and to unvaccinated, unrecovered, and infected travelers from green and yellow countries. [Read more](#)

## Norway

### [Norway Removes Last Standing Country from Safe Travel List](#)

Norway added Romania to the list of red countries from where travelers are required to undergo COVID-19 testing three days before arrival in Norway. [Read more](#)

## Portugal

### [Portugal signs immigration deal with Morocco](#)

Portugal and Morocco signed an agreement detailing the legal agreement for immigration in Portugal. The deal aims to counter illegal immigration and human trafficking. Further, the deal will create pathways for recruitment and hiring of Moroccan workers in Portugal. [Read more](#).

## Spain

### [Spain Extends Entry Restrictions for All EU/Schengen Area Countries for Another Week](#)

The Spanish authorities have announced that all the EU countries and the Schengen area, except Switzerland, will continue to be a part of the COVID-19 risk list for another week. [Read more](#)

## Switzerland

### [Switzerland Cuts Down Quarantine Period from 10 to 5 Days](#)

Switzerland has shortened the mandatory self-isolation period from ten to five days. Also, the authorities have reduced the validity of vaccination certificates to 270 days. [Read more](#)

## Slovenia

### [Slovenia Shortens Quarantine Period & Validity of COVID-19 Test Results](#)

The Slovenian authorities has reduced the validity of COVID-19 tests to within 24 hours before entering Slovenia and reduced the quarantine period from ten to seven days. [Read more](#)

## United Kingdom

### [2022 Youth Mobility Scheme for South Korean nationals: 1st ballot](#)

The first ballot for UK's 2022 Youth Mobility Scheme will open in January 2022. The Scheme allows young people between the age of 18 and 30 to work, study, or live in the UK for a period of two years. [Read more](#)



**Thomas Wolf**  
Head of KPMG's Global  
Immigration Network  
T: +49 30 530199-300  
E: [twolf@kpmg-law.com](mailto:twolf@kpmg-law.com)

[social.kpmg](#)



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