



# Immigration News Highlights

2022-50, 13 December 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. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



## Americas

### United States

#### USCIS Updates Policy to Automatically Extend Green Cards for Naturalization Applicants

The US Citizenship and Immigration Service announced the automatic extension of Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) validity for those lawful permanent citizens who have applied for naturalization. Qualifying applicants will get an extension of 24 months from the date of expiry of their Card.

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### United States

#### USCIS Announces Important Filing Information for Upcoming FY 2023 H-2B Supplemental Cap Petitions

The USCIS announced updates regarding filing requirements for petitioners requesting additional H-2B workers for the 2023 fiscal year. These updates are in accordance with the upcoming temporary final rule and involves changes in the centralized filing location and temporary suspension of premium processing.

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## Asia Pacific

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### Australia

#### [Australia starts work on 'pathways' to residency and citizenship for Kiwis](#)

The Australian government announced their intentions of creating pathways for Kiwis to obtain residency and citizenship more easily. The initiative aims to provide Kiwis holding temporary residency with greater security in Australia by streamlining the existing queue of applicants for the 189 visas and putting further applications on hold.

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### Hong Kong

#### [Hong Kong to loosen some COVID curbs including quarantine period for confirmed cases](#)

Hong Kong authorities announced a change in COVID related entry rules by shortening of duration of the daily rapid antigen (RAT) test requirement for travelers arriving in Hong Kong from seven to five days.

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### India

#### [India Resumes e-Visa Facility for Malaysian Nationals](#)

The Indian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur announced the resumption of the e-visa regime for Malaysian applicants from 6 December 2022. In order to visit India for business, tourist, or medical purposes, Malaysian passport holders can now apply for one of three types of e-visas via the online web portal.

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### Malaysia

#### [Entry processes for certain pass holders to be expedited](#)

The Malaysian government announced the expedition of entry process for holders of the Long-Term Pass. Foreigners can use Malaysia's Autogate facilities for entering and exiting the country if they hold any of the Long-Term passes and have a compliant passport with a digital chip.

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## Europe and Africa



### Denmark

#### Temporary work permits for fast-track scheme users

The government of Denmark announced the offering of temporary work permits to foreigners using the fast-track scheme in Esbjerg. Qualifying individuals can make a booking for the same through January 2023 by writing to their employer's contact at the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration.

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### Gambia

#### EU Increases Schengen Visa Fees for Citizens of The Gambia by 50%

The European Union's Council adopted a decision to increase the Schengen visa application fees for Gambian citizens by 50 percent, from EUR 80 to EUR 120. The move was made in an effort to push Gambia into cooperating with the European Union with regards to return and readmission of its national staying illegally in EU Member States.

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### Germany

#### Germany to Facilitate Migration Rules for Qualified Young Indians

German authorities announced that since the two nations have signed the German-Indian Migration Agreement, Indian nationals will soon face less restrictions while travelling to Germany for business, study, or employment. The agreement intends to encourage the movement of professionals, trainees, and students.

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### Portugal

#### Portugal Will Not Abolish its Golden Visa Program

Despite the declaration that the country's Golden Visa Program would shortly be abolished, Portugal's Socialist Party voted against the motion in the house to do so. Antonio Costa, the Prime Minister of Portugal, stated last month that the country is considering ending this programme once it has served its purpose.

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### Spain

#### Spain Has Reopened & Made Available 200 Spots of Its Working Holiday Scheme

Spanish authorities announced that the Spain Working Holiday Scheme started operations in November and added 200 additional seats for employees. Reopening the Spain Working Holiday Visa will ensure that this year's implementation of the August plan to double the cap for all programs in 2022.

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## Tunisia

### Tunisia Finally Dropped Its COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Last Week

Tunisia updated their COVID related entry policies lifting all limitations. Beginning on 1 December 2022, foreign visitors to Tunisia are no longer obliged to show a negative test result or vaccination certificate, submit to a health examination, or undergo quarantine.

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## Turkey

### Turkey resolves Schengen Visa-Related Problems With 3 EU Countries

Turkey announced that the Schengen visa issues with Spain, France, and Italy have been resolved. When applying for a Schengen visa in one of these nations, the wait time for an appointment will now be greatly reduced to three weeks.

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## Zambia

### Zambia Waives Visa Requirements for Saudis

Zambian authorities waived visa requirements for Saudi citizens wishing to visit the country, further underscoring the depth of diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia with the move.

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#### Thomas Wolf

Head of KPMG's Global  
Immigration Network  
T: +49 30 530 199-300  
E: [twolf@kpmg-law.com](mailto:twolf@kpmg-law.com)

[social.kpmg](#)



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