



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-37, 12 September 2023



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

### Canada

Canada to start accepting new Parents and Grandparents Sponsorship applications from 10 October

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) shall commence accepting applications for the Parents and Grandparents Sponsorship scheme from 10 October 2023. The invitation to apply shall be sent out to a total of 24,200 potential sponsors, of which the IRCC will accept a maximum of 15,000 complete applications for 2023. In order to be a sponsor, the applicant must be at least 18 years old, must be a Canadian citizen, and must be financially capable of supporting the family they wish to sponsor.

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### United States

Maximum cap for Diversity Visas reached

The USCIS announced that the limit for issuing Diversity Visas (DV) for the fiscal year ending 30 September 2023 has been exhausted. A maximum of 55,000 DVs can be issued every year. Those who were unable to receive a visa due to the early conclusion of the 2023 program are encouraged to apply again for the 2025 program.

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## Asia Pacific

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### Bahrain

#### [Bahrain introduces new system to renew visas outside the country](#)

Bahrain authorities announced the launch of a new system enabling the employers of expatriates to renew their visas even if they are outside the country during the time of renewal. This process shall be carried out online through the Bahrain national portal, and shall be possible only before the expiry of the existing visa period.

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### Philippines

#### [Philippines, Australia establish 'work and holiday' visa scheme](#)

Philippine and Australian authorities agreed upon the issue of multiple entry visas, allowing nationals of both countries to seek temporary employment while they are on vacation in either country, helping them fund their trips. This facility shall be available to individuals between the ages of 18 to 31, for a non-extendable period of 12 months. They should have also completed atleast two years of undergraduate or post-secondary education.

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### Sri Lanka

#### [Sri Lanka to introduce digital nomad visa to boost tourism](#)

The government of Sri Lanka approved the launch of the digital nomad visa, as a measure to attract remote workers and to boost the tourism sector. Under this visa program, applicants would be required to provide evidence of a minimum income of US\$2,000, which must be channeled through the Sri Lankan banking system. The application fee is US\$500, and the visa shall be valid for a period of one year, renewable annually.

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### United Arab Emirates

#### [Women in the UAE can now work without changing visa status](#)

Emirati authorities have confirmed that women with a housewife visa can now work in the UAE without changing their visa status. Interested individuals would be required to procure a work permit from the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization, along with obtaining a no-objection certificate from their spouse. They must also comply with all the eligibility requirements applicable to foreigners working in the country.

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## Europe and Africa

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### Congo

## Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) scraps visa requirements for Kenyans

The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) announced that 1 September 2023 onwards, Kenyan nationals would no longer require a visa in order to enter DRC. Kenya was moved from category 2 to category 1 regarding visa requirements, in line with the regulations set by the East African Community for free movement of people belonging to member states.

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## Denmark

### Denmark introduces new monetary requirement for sponsors of accompanying family members

Danish authorities announced the introduction of new requirements for family members of residents of the Faroe Islands seeking residence permits. 2 September 2023 onwards, applicants with sponsors from the Islands would have to provide documentary evidence of the fact that their sponsors can financially support them. Those with residence permits under the Sports Agreement are exempt from this requirement.

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## European Union

### ETIAS won't be enough to enter Europe from next year

The European Union confirmed that once the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) is launched, travelers who can currently travel to the Schengen area without obtaining a visa would be required to apply for the ETIAS document, along with meeting visa free conditions in order to cross the external borders of the EU. Along with their general travel documents, they would also be required to provide proof of duration of stay in the EU, reason for visit and explanation of financial means of supporting the trip at the ETIAS border checks.

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## Finland

### Finland to tighten rules for Non-EU work permit holders

Finnish authorities will now require non-EU work permit holders to leave the country if they are unemployed and have been unsuccessful in securing employment within three months. Residence permits can also be rescinded if an individual's employment is terminated. Employers will legally be required to notify authorities in case a work permit holder loses their job.

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## Iceland

### Requirements for work and residence permits relaxed

The government of Iceland amended their Foreign Nationals Act, simplifying requirements for several work and residence permits. Residence permit for work that requires expert knowledge shall now be granted for a period of four years instead of two. Residence permits that were granted due to shortage of labour can be renewed for a period of two years instead of one. In case employment is terminated, the permit holder will now have a six month extension to find a new job.

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## Italy

## Venice entry fee for visitors to start in Spring 2024

Venetian authorities have confirmed the decision to impose a fee of EUR5 on foreign daytrip visitors, aged 14 and above, planning to enter the city. The measure is being taken as a part of the efforts to reduce the influx of tourists to the city. Locals, commuters, overnight visitors, participants in sports events and those with alternate homes in Venice paying local property taxes shall be exempted from the fee.

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## Sweden

### Sweden plans to tighten requirements for obtaining citizenship

The government of Sweden announced their plans to tighten the procedure of obtaining citizenship in the country. Proposed ideas include increased vigilance about the requirement of the applicant for a longer residence in the country, checking their knowledge of the Swedish society and culture, and requiring the applicant to demonstrate their ability of living self-sufficiently in an honest manner, in order to benefit from Swedish citizenship.

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