



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Ukraine border guards sign USD 1.5 million protocol on cooperation with the U.S. Government

Chairman of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine MykolaLytvyn and the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Tefft have signed a Protocol to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the United States Government for the provision of assistance on law enforcement issues.

The signing ceremony was held along with the transfer to the State Border Guard Service of modern vehicles and equipment worth UAH 135 million from the U.S. Government.

According to the Protocol, the U.S. will provide assistance for law enforcement matters in Ukraine. It will be possible to implement two more projects with a total budget of USD 1.5 million, the Ambassador said.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 8 May, 2012

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_border_guards_sign_15_million_protocol_on_cooperation_with_us_Government_281762

EUBAM hands over €4,000 worth of training kit to Ukrainian services

The EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) has handed over approximately €4,000 worth of training equipment to the training academies of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and State Customs Service of Ukraine at its headquarters in Odessa.

The equipment comprised a laptop, printer, scanner, video camera, projector, educational films and a training manual that will be used for the delivery of a management training programme to middle management personnel at both services. The training manual itself is the product of two years' joint work by EUBAM's Capacity Building Unit, the Ukrainian Customs Academy in Dnepropetrovsk, and the National Academy of the State Border Guard Service in Khmelnytsky.

The programme, 'Effective Management Instruments', is the first training programme to be jointly developed and jointly rolled out by EUBAM and both services.

"EUBAM is paying special attention to the younger generation and to students cadets in the academies," said Mr Udo Burkholder, Head of EUBAM, at the handover ceremony. "That is why we have deepened our cooperation with academic institutions and training centres in both the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine."

Read more: EU Neighborhood Info-Centre Centre, 23 May, 2012

http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id_type=1&id=29025&lang_id=450%20&utm_source=4marketing.it%2C%204dem.it&utm_medium=Email%20Marketing&utm_content=Subscriber%231291&utm_campaign=EUBAM%20hands%20over%20%804%2C000%20worth%20of%20training%20kit%20to%20Ukrainian%20services



EU consulates unifying list of documents for Schengen visa

On 30 May, 2012, the European Union plans to approve the common list of documents that Ukrainians have to submit for getting a Schengen visa, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Oleksandr Dykusharov told the press on 22 May, 2012. The list will be the same for all consular posts of the EU countries in Ukraine.

According to Mr. Dykusharov, the European side also assured that it will be adequately informing Ukrainian citizens who received Schengen visas of the procedure for crossing internal and external EU borders.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 23 May, 2012

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_consulates_unifying_list_of_documents_for_schengen_visa_282690

More Ukrainians issued Schengen visas, Foreign Ministry reports

The number of Schengen visas issued to the citizens of Ukraine in recent years has been growing, and the number of refusals decreasing, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has informed.

"The analysis conducted on the grounds of recent data provided by diplomatic agencies of EU member states, shows the growth in the number of Schengen visas issued to Ukrainians in 2011 and the fall in the percentage of visa refusals compared with the previous period," Director of the Consular Department of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Andrii Olefirov said in an exclusive interview with Interfax-Ukraine.

As for the previous years, Mr. Olefirov said that the number of visa refusals by individual EU member states decreased considerably. According to the Foreign Ministry, Spain, for instance, issued 14.7 per cent of refusals in 2009, and in 2010 their number decreased to 2 per cent, France reduced the number of visa refusals from 10 per cent to 6 per cent, Greece from 10 per cent to 3 per cent.

"In 2010 the total number of issued visas increased by 70,000 compared with the previous year and reached 1.07 million. The number of multiple-entry visas exceeded those issues in previous years and reached 27.26 per cent," Mr. Olefirov said.

Read more: Kyiv Post, 4 May, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/127023/>

German Embassy issued 300,000 visas to Ukrainians in 2011

According to the German Embassy officials, it issued 300,000 visas to Ukrainians in 2011. "Ukrainians can submit documents for visas in several places, for example, consulates and honorary consulates in particular regions. Besides, some categories of the population can receive visas not in person, but via other people," Deputy Cultural Attaché of the German Embassy in Ukraine Cyrus Royamanech said.

Read more: Kyiv Post, 22 May, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/128052/>



Poland simplifies visa procedures for EURO 2012 fans

Polish consular offices are introducing the practice of simplifications in the submission of visa applications for the participants, fans and organizers of the EURO 2012 European Football Championship.

Visa applications related to EURO 2012 are accepted at the points of their reception in Kyiv and all consulates general of Poland (in Kharkiv, Lviv, Lutsk, Odesa, Sevastopol and Vinnytsia).

“For the convenience of people who come to the points of reception of visa applications, special windows will be set up to service EURO 2012 fans. The documents of these individuals will be accepted on the basis of visa applications filled in by hand, without the need for the electronic registration of visa applications in the e-konsulat system,” reads the statement of the office of the Polish Tourist Organization in Kyiv.

In addition, it will be possible to apply for a visa as close to the place of residence as possible and without the need for a personal visit to the consulate.

Organized groups of fans will be serviced on a priority basis.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 7May, 2012

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poland_simplifies_visas_for_euro_2012_fans_281675

Ukraine opens second airport in Kyiv

As the date of the largest football tournament EURO 2012 approaches, Ukraine finished a comprehensive overhaul of the Kyiv International Airport terminal Zhuliany. The new 150,000 square foot terminal boasts the increased passenger output of up to 500 per hour with the capacity to service triple this amount if needed.

Located 8 km from downtown Kyiv, Zhuliany International Airport is the second after the country’s main gateway Boryspil International Airport. According to the press service of the airport, the new terminal is equipped with the latest and most advanced technology, that allows Ukrainian Border Guards to read biometric information contained in most passports.

“It will take us ten to twenty seconds to serve a passenger and then they can be on their way,” said Border Guard officer Kostiantyn Cherevatyi.

During the upcoming football tournament the new USD 50 million terminal will receive international charters including the ones with UEFA management as well with teams from Sweden, France, and England.

Read more: Kyiv Post, 22 May, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/city/detail/128033/>



President tells to maintain constant dialogue with Ukrainians abroad

President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich has instructed Ukraine's ambassador to the United States Oleksandr Motsyk to maintain a continuous dialogue with the Ukrainian diaspora. According to Viktor Yanukovich, the potential of the Ukrainians living in the United States should be attracted to the development of Ukrainian-American relations.

The President emphasized that the Government of Ukraine maintains constant contacts with the Ukrainians living outside the state.

Read more: ForUm, 22 May, 2012

<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2012/05/22/135717.html>

Parliament of Ukraine supports bill to ban foreigners from occupying state posts

Parliament of Ukraine is intending to reduce the number of cases of dual citizenship in Ukraine.

On 22 May, 2012, 267 Members of Parliament voted for the introduction of amendments to Article 9 of the Ukrainian law "On citizenship of Ukraine" to improve the conditions of the adoption of the Ukrainian citizenship.

The bill proposes placing restrictions on people who are the citizens of Ukraine and simultaneously have a citizenship of another state.

According to the bill, people having citizenship of another country cannot serve with customs bodies, specialized customs establishments and organizations, interior bodies, or the Security Service of Ukraine. They also cannot be prosecutors and prosecutor's investigators. Moreover, the bill envisages that the adoption of the citizenship of another country is grounds for the dismissal of a person from security, tax and other structures.

Read more: Kyiv Post, 23 May, 2012

<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/128120/>

Ukrainians in the Czech Republic protest against labour market restrictions

On 10 May, 2012, several dozens of foreigners from Mongolia, Ukraine and Vietnam, as well as representatives of the NGOs focusing on migrants' rights, protested in Prague against tougher conditions for employment of non-EU foreigners in the Czech Republic introduced by the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry.

According to Elena Tulupova from an NGO coalition, even those who have been living in the Czech Republic for several years would not be granted work permits because of the Ministry's new measure. Ms. Tulupova said that foreigners who would otherwise work legally in the country will enter the grey zone due to this. According to the NGO representative, this would mainly affect unqualified labourers like construction workers, cleaning women and assistants to cooks.

As of July, work permits will be granted only for six months and even manual workers will have to prove that they have secondary education.

Head of the Ministry's section of labour market services Jiri Vanasek told the protesters that the aim is not to get rid of foreigners but to correctly assess whether a given job cannot be performed by an officially registered job applicant.



At the end of 2011, 36,640 non-EU foreigners received work permits in the Czech Republic, in comparison to 49,118 in 2010 and 73,663 in 2009.

Read more: The Czech News Agency, 11 May, 2012

<http://praguemonitor.com/2012/05/11/migrants-against-less-available-czech-work-permits>

Labour migrants in Italy may get more time to look for a job

The Italian Government plans to prolong time for a search of job by labour migrants, including Ukrainians. The draft law, submitted for consideration of the Italian Parliament, provides for issuing of residence permits for foreigners for the term of two years; after the first renewal, the term is prolonged up to three years.

The Italian Minister of the Interior Anna Maria Cancellieri presenting the draft law noted that from now on those, who lost the job place, would have twice as more time to look for and to sign a new labour contract. At the same time, foreigners shall be registered in the books of the unemployed for at least one year. During this period, they will have the right to obtain the assistance in case of unemployment and residence permits for employment.

The draft law must be approved by all the main political forces of the Italian Parliament. The Italian Democratic Party has already welcomed the idea of prolongation of a term of validity of residence permits for labour migrants. At the same time, the Lega Nord announced about its disapproval.

As the experts note, this law, in case of its adoption, will be useful for foreign specialists, which the Italian companies or employers are interested in, these specialists will be given permits for three years. The draft law does not mention the residence tax; apparently, it will be cancelled.

According to different data, there are from 200 to 500 thousand Ukrainian labour migrants in Italy today.

Read more: Institute of human rights and prevention of extremism and xenophobia, 4 May, 2012

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/2951/labour_migrants_in_italy_may_be_allowed_to_look_for_a_job_longer

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Compiled by Communications team of IOM Ukraine