



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Minister of Foreign Affairs Leonid Kozhara met with Chief of IOM Mission in Ukraine

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Leonid Kozhara, met with the Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ukraine, Manfred Profazi, on 15 January, 2013.

Over 15 years of work in Ukraine, IOM has assisted over 300,000 migrants, victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups, directly or through its project partners.

Ensuring comprehensive international cooperation in the sphere of counter trafficking, inter alia, in the framework of Ukraine OSCE Chairmanship, remains an important field of cooperation between Ukraine and the International Organization for Migration.

IOM capacity and experience are utilized in evacuation of Ukrainian citizens from crisis regions. For example, in 2012, due to the escalation of the Syrian conflict, 499 Ukrainians were evacuated. 139 of them came back home with IOM assistance.

In this context Ukrainian party thanked IOM Ukraine Chief of Mission Mr. Manfred Profazi for his personal active role in the above mentioned activities and expressed interest in further cooperation with IOM.

Mr. Profazi thanked for such an appreciation of IOM work. IOM Ukraine Chief of Mission stated that bilateral support and close partnership will continue to foster. Mr. Profazi highly appreciated Ukraine efforts in improving migration and visa-related legislation, as well as counter-trafficking. According to IOM Ukraine Chief of Mission, achievements in these spheres are important for the EU – Ukraine visa dialogue.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 16 January, 2013
http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/4762/kozgara_met_with_chief_of_iom_mission_in_ukraine

International Organization for Migration, Mission in Ukraine fosters cooperation with the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine

An Agreement of Cooperation was concluded between International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission in Ukraine and the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine. The document was signed by the Head of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine Mr. Ruslan Kyrlyuk and the Chief of the IOM Mission in Ukraine Mr. Manfred Profazi.

The Agreement is intended to consolidate efforts of the Parties in counteracting crimes related to trafficking in persons and those based on racial, ethnic or religious hatred. The particular goal is to promote observance of human rights of citizens of Ukraine as well as foreigners and stateless persons.

“The crucial aim of Ukrainian judicial system reform is implementing best European standards. We are thankful to IOM for its support,” the Head of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine Mr. Ruslan Kyrlyuk stated.

IOM and the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine have been cooperating in the field of witness protection since 2009. In the framework of a project funded by the U.S. State Department, video-link testimony systems were installed by IOM Khmelnytskyi City Regional Court, Lutsk City Regional Court, Suvorivskyi District Court of the city of Kherson, Ivano-Frankivsk, Luhansk and Chernihiv Courts of Appeal.



“These systems are crucial for improving victim and witness protection, completely separating them from the audience during court hearings of trafficking-related and other sensitive criminal cases. We are proud that those already in place have been used during more than 250 court hearings,” IOM Ukraine Chief of Mission Manfred Profazi stated after the signing ceremony.

“In the framework of a new US-funded project IOM will install video-link testimony systems in eight additional selected Ukrainian courts,” Mr. Profazi informed.

Read more: International Organization for Migration, Mission in Ukraine, 17 January, 2013

<http://iom.org.ua/en/home-page/news/iom-fosters-cooperation-with-the-state-judicial-administration-of-ukraine.html>

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Protracted conflicts, human trafficking and media freedom among Ukraine’s OSCE 2013 priorities

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Leonid Kozhara has announced Ukraine’s priorities for the 2013 OSCE Chairmanship, with resolving of protracted conflicts, combating human trafficking and promotion of the media freedom among the key issues.

Addressing the OSCE Permanent Council on 17 January, Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs said that Ukraine’s priorities for 2013 include assisting parties in protracted conflicts to find political solutions, with a focus on re-energizing existing formats for negotiation. They include negotiations on the Transdnestrian settlement, the Geneva Discussions on the August, 2008 conflict in Georgia and talks on Nagorno-Karabakh led by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

“We are convinced that the so-called protracted conflicts continue to represent a serious threat to our regional stability. Helping the parties to find a political solution should remain the highest priority for the OSCE, the Chairmanship and for all participating States,” Mr. Kozhara said.

The Minister also stressed the importance of continuing efforts aimed at strengthening arms control mechanisms and confidence, as well as security building measures. Ukraine will actively engage in countering transnational threats such as terrorism, organized crime, trafficking in human beings, weapons and drugs smuggling.

Read more: The National Radio Company of Ukraine, 17 January, 2013

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/en/148/521209/>

European Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously backs visa facilitation for Ukrainians

The European Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee on 22 January, 2013 unanimously supported the entry into force of the agreement introducing amendments to the visa facilitation agreement between Ukraine and the EU.

Ukraine’s representative to the EU Kostiantyn Yeliseyev said that the Ukrainian side welcomes the committee’s decision.

Mr. Yeliseyev noted that this decision opens the way for the ratification by the European Parliament of the said document in the near future. Thus, MEPs showed their consistent support for the gradual introduction of the visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens, the diplomat said.



The agreement between the European Union and Ukraine introducing amendments to the agreement on visa facilitation was signed in Brussels on 23 July, 2012. The document mainly envisages the expansion of categories of citizens who will be eligible for visa facilitation. Under the enhanced agreement, EU member states undertake to ensure the possible submission of visa applications to the embassies and consulates of EU member states in Ukraine without intermediaries. It is also planned to reduce the waiting time for the submission of visa applications and limit the cost of services provided by intermediary companies.

To enter into force, the agreement must undergo domestic procedures. In particular, it has to be ratified by the Parliament of Ukraine. After the vote in the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, the agreement must be considered at a meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and a plenary meeting of the European Parliament. After that, the EU Council should adopt a final decision.

Read more: The National News Agency of Ukraine, 23 January, 2013

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eps_foreign_affairs_committee_unanimously_backs_visa_facilitation_for_ukrainians_296987

Beijing introduces visa-free transit for Ukrainians

China has decided to provide the Ukrainian citizens with a 72-hour visa-free transit in Beijing, spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Oleksandr Dykusharov informed.

"The Chinese Government decided to introduce a 72-hour visa-free transit for citizens of 45 countries, including Ukraine, that come to Beijing from 1 January, 2013," Mr. Dykusharov said.

He underlined that foreigners can not travel outside of Beijing under the regime of visa-free transit.

Read more: Europe without Barriers, 25 December, 2012

<http://novisa.com.ua/news/Ukrainians-can-stay-without-visa-in-Beijing-for-three-days/en/>

Migrant workers transferred almost billion dollars to Ukraine

In the third quarter of 2012, the workers transferred USD 941 million through international transferring systems, which is 9 per cent more than during the same period of 2011. However, this number is significantly smaller than in the second quarter of 2012, when almost USD 1.5 billion was transferred to Ukraine.

The amount of money transfers from abroad in 2011 was USD 7.019 billion, which is 4.2 per cent of the GDP for the indicated period.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 8 January, 2013

http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/4688/migrant_workers_transferred_almost_billion_dollars_to_ukraine



Fingerprinting becomes necessary for German multiple entry visas

Starting from 24 January, 2013, Germany introduces fingerprinting for citizens of Ukraine, applying for the long-term national visas, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine press service informs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine also noted that these changes are introduced with the aim of implementation of previous changes to visa-immigration law in Germany.

Read more: ForUm, 24 January, 2013
<http://en.for-ua.com/news/2013/01/23/104713.html>

Poland intensifies control of its eastern border with Ukraine

The Polish authorities are intended to intensify guarding of its eastern border, the biggest part of which is the border with Ukraine, because of the increase of smuggling and the number of irregular immigrants. This was informed on 23 January, 2013 by the Polish newspaper Rzeczpospolita.

The Ministry of the Interior of Poland plans to transfer more than 1.7 thousand officers of border guards' services to the eastern border by the end of this year.

Read more: Institute of Human Rights and Prevention of Extremism and Xenophobia, 23 January, 2013
http://www.ihrpex.org/en/article/4799/poland_intensifies_its_eastern_border_with_ukraine_because_of_migrants

British fruit farmers look to Ukrainian labour influx

Ministers are under pressure to allow migrant workers from Russia, Ukraine and Turkey into the UK to mitigate a predicted shortage of fruit pickers which is threatening the £3bn a year horticulture industry.

The temporary visa route for labourers from outside the European Union – proposed by the National Farmers' Union – would make up for the expected drop in seasonal agriculture workers from Bulgaria and Romania, who will become eligible for more highly skilled jobs in the UK when they gain full EU members' working rights in January 2014.

Read more: Financial Times, 21 January, 2013
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/342745b4-6309-11e2-8497-00144feab49a.html#axzz2JGEXCjOZ>