



EU to launch formal visa-free process for Ukraine in April

17 March 2016 – The Wall Street Journal

The European Union's executive will formally launch the process for approving Ukraine's visa-free access to the bloc in April, said European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, taking Kyiv a step closer to a key political goal. The move had been delayed for a few weeks because of the failure of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's government to drive through several final key anticorruption reforms at home.

Mr. Juncker praised the passage of legislation dealing with the appointment of officials in Ukraine's anticorruption agency and a new law on e-declarations forcing Ukrainian officials to give greater transparency over their assets. Not all the final measures however were completed, EU officials said.

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Poroshenko signs e-declaration law for EU visa-free travel

16 March 2016 – President of Ukraine Press Office

President Petro Poroshenko signed the law on amendments to several legislative acts of Ukraine on the submission of declarations on property, income, expenditures and financial obligations by civil servants in 2016. The document was in the set of laws to be adopted for the establishment of the visa-free regime with the EU.

The law was signed at a meeting with representatives of the commission on the election of members of the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption. The document was included in a package of laws required for visa-free travel to the European Union.

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Over 1.7 million IDPs officially registered in Ukraine

21 March 2016 – BBC Ukraine

According to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, 1,747,457 displaced persons from Crimea and the Donbas have been registered as of late March. 771,500 families have applied for social benefits. Payments for 721,788 families already have been approved.

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EU steps up humanitarian assistance to Ukraine by EUR 20 million

17 March 2016 – European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Office

The European Commission has announced that it is boosting its humanitarian response to help people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The news about the additional humanitarian aid package worth EUR 20 million comes as European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides visited the country between 16 and 18 March 2016.

According to the European Commission, an estimated 3.1 million people are still in need of assistance in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. About 55% of the Commission's humanitarian assistance targets people in need in non-government controlled areas.

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Flow of people through the Donbas check points increases

22 March 2016 – Radio Free Europe

According to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, some 4,000,050 people crossed the check points on the Donbas contact line in 2015. This year, the number of people crossing the check points in both directions is considerably bigger compared to the same time last year. Before, some 11,000-12,000 people crossed the line daily, but now approximately 25,000 people cross per day.

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Germany further supports IOM activities in Ukraine

29 March 2016 – German Embassy in Ukraine

The German Government has allocated one million euro to support humanitarian assistance to IDPs in Ukraine through IOM projects. This year's project looks to expand assistance from eight to 13 Ukrainian regions to benefit the most vulnerable citizens, the German diplomatic mission specified.

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Ukrainian Government limits immigration quota for 2016

28 March 2016 – Espresso TV

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has set a quota for immigrants to Ukraine in 2016 at 4,586 people, which is a 26.3% decrease from last year when the quota was fixed at 6,225 people. In particular, Ukraine will welcome 530 scientists and persons working in the cultural sphere. At the same time, there is no limitation for persons who have invested at least \$100,000 in Ukraine's economy.

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Border guards reinforce Ukraine-Romania border

24 March 2016 – Ukrinform

The State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine is reinforcing the Romanian section of the national border because of the possible heightened risks of crossings by irregular migrants, SBGS spokesman Oleh Slobodyan announced. "Given the active efforts to combat irregular migration enforced by Hungary, it is predicted that the migrants' traffic will change, in particular through the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine via Romania," said Mr. Slobodyan.

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Kyiv Regional Council against opening of refugee centre in Yahotyn

3 March 2016 – Interfax

The members of Kyiv Regional Council call on the Parliament of Ukraine to stop the construction of a temporary accommodation centre for asylum seekers in Yahotyn, Kyiv Region, and to provide the premises of the building to internally displaced people, the press service of the Council reported.

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Ukrainian Government defends Yahotyn refugee centre

3 March 2016 – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Press Office

In the near future, the State Migration Service of Ukraine is ready to open a temporary accommodation centre (TAC) in the city of Yahotyn in Kyiv Region. Its construction began in 2004. The need to open the TAC and set up the related infrastructure to accommodate asylum seekers was also enshrined in the National Plan of Implementation of the EU-Ukraine Visa Liberalisation Action Plan.

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The second group of Donbas Meskheti Turks leaves to Turkey

3 March 2016 – Interfax

One hundred and eighty-two (182) Meskheti Turks who lived in the conflict zone in Ukraine left from Kharkiv airport to Turkey, the attaché of the Embassy of Turkey, Mr. Emre Manav, informed. According to the diplomat, the Turkish Government is ready to welcome 3,000 Meskheti Turks who currently live in the east of Ukraine and suffer from the ongoing conflict. They will be provided with housing and employment. It is expected that the next group will depart for Turkey in April.

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Czech officials speak in favour of visa-free regime for Ukraine

18 March 2016 – The National Radio of Ukraine

“We support the aspirations of the countries such as Georgia, Ukraine, or Turkey for visa liberalization,” said Czech Foreign Minister Lubomir Zaoralek. He also stressed that the abovementioned countries should fully implement all the requirements for visa free regime with the EU.

Press secretary of the Union of Industry and Transport of the Czech Republic Milan Mostyn also commented on the situation and said that this would open doors for Ukrainian workers, as the local industry had a huge demand for them. As reported, by the end of January, the number of officially employed Ukrainians in the Czech Republic totaled 106,000. Ukrainians are the largest group of migrants in the Czech Republic, comprising 23% of the total migrant population.

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Compiled by IOM Ukraine Communications team