

Mobility: Immigration alert

July 2023

Finland

Finnish Consulate in Saint Petersburg to close by 1 October 2023

Executive summary

Earlier this month, Russia announced that it will close the Consulate General of Finland in Saint Petersburg by 1 October 2023 and expel nine individuals who work at the Consulate and the Finnish Embassy in Moscow.

Key developments

Russia's announcement comes in response to Finland's decision to deport nine individuals working at Russia's Embassy in Finland, who were believed to have engaged in intelligence gathering activities in contravention of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. In recent years, the Consulate in Saint Petersburg has issued more visas to Russian nationals and residents than any other Finnish Consulate in Russia.

Impact on employers

The closure of the Consulate in Saint Petersburg is expected to negatively affect employers that seek to sponsor Russian nationals for Schengen Visas or Finnish residence permits by lengthening the application process time.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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Tuomas Anttila
Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +358 408 671 332
Email: tuomas.anttila@fi.ey.com

Sari Viitasalo
Senior Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +358 207 280 190
Email: sari.viitasalo@fi.ey.com