



Global Immigration alert

July 2024



European Union

Visa-free policy announced for certain Serbian nationals who enter the Schengen Area

Executive summary

On 22 July 2024, the European Council adopted a decision to suspend the visa requirement for holders of passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate who seek to enter the Schengen Area. This change will go into effect 20 days after it is published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Background

Since December 2009, holders of Serbian biometric passports have been able to enter the Schengen Area (which comprises all EU member states except Ireland and Cyprus) without a visa. However, holders of Serbian passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate in Belgrade, which issues passports to Serbian citizens residing in Kosovo, were not eligible for the visa exemption. On 16 November 2023, the European Commission introduced a proposal to eliminate this exception by revising Regulation (EU) 2018/1806.

Key developments

The recent implementation of this proposal aims to harmonize the visa policy across the [Western Balkan region](#) by extending the visa-free regime to all citizens of the countries in this region who seek to enter the Schengen Area.

Impact on employers

This change is expected to benefit employers that seek to send impacted individuals to the Schengen Area for business purposes by simplifying entry requirements.

Key steps

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

EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via ey.com/privacy. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

Ernst & Young LLP is a client-serving member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited operating in the US.

© 2024 Ernst & Young LLP.
All Rights Reserved.

EYG no. 006710-24Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

ey.com

Ben Willis

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 9589
Email: ben.willis@uk.ey.com

Seema Farazi

Partner - People Advisory Services, EMEA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 7122
Email: seema.farazi@uk.ey.com

José Vaz

Director - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +46 701 481 325
Email: jose.vaz@se.ey.com