

Mobility: Immigration alert

March 2023



Sweden

Deadline for report on enhancements to immigration regulations postponed until January 2024

Executive summary

On 17 February 2023, the Swedish Ministers for Migration and Employment announced that the deadline for a report on proposed enhancements to the Swedish immigration system has been postponed to 31 January 2024.

Background

On 30 June 2022, the Swedish government announced the creation of a committee tasked with proposing changes to the country's immigration system. As part of its review, the committee was instructed to evaluate the current labor market testing process and work permit requirements for third-country nationals who are assigned to work in Sweden by companies located abroad. The original deadline for the committee to submit its proposals was 31 July 2023.

Key developments

At a press conference on 17 February 2023, Migration Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard and Employment Minister Johan Pehrson announced that the new deadline for the committee to submit its proposals is 31 January 2024. Further, they announced that the committee is no longer tasked with assessing the current labor market testing process. They also asked the committee to:

- ▶ Suggest revised salary thresholds for third-country nationals who apply for work permits. Those who hold valid work permits when the new salary requirements eventually go into effect will be granted 12-month transition periods, during which they will remain subject to the previous salary thresholds.

- ▶ Identify professions that should no longer be subject to the revised salary thresholds.
- ▶ Identify professions for which Swedish work permits should no longer be issued.
- ▶ Mandate private health insurance for third-country nationals who are issued work permits that are valid for less than one year.
- ▶ Include a proposal to create a new organization within the Migration Agency, which will be responsible solely for the recruitment of foreign talent.

Impact on employers

The new changes are expected to streamline immigration processes, minimize the administrative burden on employers and lead to faster application processing times. Employers may also be required to increase the salaries of impacted individuals to meet the new 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.

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ED None

ey.com

Andreas Bråthe

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +46 73 3972433
Email: andreas.brathe@se.ey.com

Elin Harrysson

Senior Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +46 85 2058410
Email: elin.harrysson@se.ey.com

Elsa Tirén

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +46 85 2058561
Email: elsa.tiren@se.ey.com