

Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2023

Portugal

Expired Portuguese permits and visas automatically extended until 30 June 2024

Executive summary

The Portuguese government recently extended the validity of permits and visas that expired on or after 27 February 2020 until 30 June 2024, with limited exceptions.

Background

In March 2020, the Portuguese authorities approved Decree Law 10-A/2020, which extended the validity of all permits and visas that expired "on or after 13 March 2020 or in the 15 days immediately prior to that date" (i.e., 27 February 2020) until 30 October 2020. A second extension was granted until 31 March 2021, with subsequent extensions until 31 December 2022 and then until 31 December 2023. These extensions aimed to assist individuals who were facing delays with renewing their immigration documents following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and restructuring of the Immigration and Border Services (SEF) to the new Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum (AIMA).

Key developments

On 24 November 2023, the Portuguese authorities approved Decree Law 109/2023, which will further extend the validity of these expired permits and visas until 30 June 2024. This extension will not apply to individuals who arrived from Ukraine and hold Temporary Protection Status in Portugal. The decree will go into effect on 1 January 2024.

Expired documents extended pursuant to this recent decree will be considered valid only in Portugal, and individuals may face challenges when traveling to other jurisdictions using

these documents. Individuals will be able to continue using their expired documents in Portugal after 30 June 2024 if they present proof that they have submitted an application for renewal.

Impact on employers

Employers are expected to benefit from this extension as impacted individuals will be able to continue working and residing in Portugal until the new deadline (30 June 2024). Employers may assist these individuals in applying to renew their documents to avoid immigration compliance challenges.

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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ey.com

Anabela Silva

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +351936079620
Email: anabela.silva@pt.ey.com

Yasser Tavares

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +351937913402
Email: yasser.tavares@pt.ey.com

Luís Pedro Reto

Senior - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +351212410199
Email: luis.pedro.reto@pt.ey.com

Cláudia Coelho

Staff - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +351937911134
Email: claudia.coelho@pt.ey.com