



Mobility: Immigration alert

March 2024

Belgium

Belgium resumes processing of international protection applications from Russian nationals

Executive summary

Belgium recently resumed processing applications for international protection status filed by Russian nationals.

Background

Following the outbreak of the armed conflict in Ukraine in 2022, travel and residence restrictions were imposed on Russian nationals in most EU Member States. As part of these restrictions, Belgium suspended the issuance of international protection status to Russian nationals.

Key developments

The decision to resume application processing was announced by the Office of the General Commissioner for Refugees and Stateless persons (CGRS), which is the definitive authority in Belgium for the assessment of individuals' eligibility for international protection. The CGRS resumed processing international protection applications submitted by Russian nationals in late February 2024. The terms of international protection are subject to change at the discretion of the authorities.

In general, Russian nationals who seek to apply for international protection in Belgium must hold a passport that is valid for at least six months after the expiry of their intended stay in the country. They must also submit proof of their intended departure from Belgium (e.g., confirmed tickets to another country). Individuals who are granted protection can undertake work after four months of receiving international protection status.

Impact on employers

Employers may benefit from increased access to Russian workers without sponsoring them for Single Permits.

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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