

Global Immigration alert

February 2025

Portugal

Amendments to Portuguese Immigration Law effective 14 February 2025

Executive summary

In an effort to modernize Portugal's immigration framework and align national practices with EU standards, the Portuguese parliament voted on Law No. 9/2025 on 13 February 2025, approving new legislative changes to the Portuguese Immigration Law. Law No. 9/2025 standardizes the validity periods of residence permits for nationals of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) so that they are consistent with validity periods granted to other third-country nationals, ensuring more streamlined and equitable immigration procedures. Additionally, key provisions of EU Regulation 2017/2226, of the European parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2017, are now incorporated in the Portuguese legal framework, thereby establishing a robust Entry/Exit System (EES) and upgrading biometric data protocols at border crossings.

Background

In response to the challenges encountered in processing immigration applications and to ensure efficient border management, the Portuguese government deemed it necessary to amend the country's Immigration Law to address these issues in a streamlined approach. Law No. 9/2025, which amends Law 23/2007, was published on 13 February 2025 and attempts to modernize the Portuguese immigration framework by simplifying procedures and aligning these with the EES.

Key developments

Law No. 9/2025 introduces the following changes:

- It outlines a new process for CPLP nationals. Applicants covered under the CPLP agreement can now request a temporary residence permit that is valid for two years and can be renewed. This aligns the process for CPLP

nationals with the general immigration rules, providing a streamlined and efficient pathway for residency.

- It incorporates the EES into Law No. 23/2007. This digital system will replace the traditional manual stamping of passports for third-country nationals entering or exiting the Schengen Area. In this regard, biometric verification and digital tracking of individuals will enhance efforts to prevent irregular migration and expedite border clearance for legitimate travelers.
- National law enforcement agencies (i.e., the local police), in collaboration with the Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum (AIMA), will have increased responsibilities relating to notifying unauthorized individuals to depart the country.

Impact on employers

Employers that hire CPLP nationals are expected to benefit from Law No. 9/2025. They may adjust their operational strategies, update employee documentation processes and ensure compliance with the new regulations to benefit from these changes while maintaining a secure and efficient hiring process.

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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