



Global Immigration alert

June 2024

The Netherlands

New coalition proposes changes in Dutch immigration

Executive summary

On 16 May 2024, the newly formed Dutch coalition of four political parties published an accord outlining general policy guidelines for a soon-to-be-formed cabinet. The accord recommends several changes in the Netherlands' immigration regulations.

Background

After the general elections in the Netherlands in November 2023, four political parties began discussions to form a coalition, which was officially formalized earlier in May 2024. In a departure from the normal course, the coalition published an accord in mid-May 2024 recommending a general policy outline instead of specific policy proposals. Among other suggestions, the accord proposes restrictions on labor migration. The goal is for the new, upcoming cabinet to design specific policies that will align with the general guidelines in the accord.

Key developments

The accord recommends the following policy goals, which are subject to further approvals:

- ▶ The qualification requirements for highly skilled foreign nationals may be made stricter.
- ▶ Individuals seeking to apply for citizenship by naturalization may be eligible to do so after 10 years of residence in the country (up from five years currently), regardless of whether they hold a temporary or permanent residence permit.
- ▶ Employers may be responsible for providing Dutch language services to foreign employees who reside in the Netherlands for an extended period.

- ▶ The number of civil servants may be reduced by 20%, which may impact staffing in government departments that deal with immigration-related matters. The accord recommends that these changes minimally impact executive institutions, such as the Department of Immigration and Naturalization (IND), which is responsible for processing residence applications.

Impact on employers

The proposed requirements for highly skilled foreign nationals may restrict employers' access to international talent.

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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