

Global Immigration alert

July 2024

European Union

Visa-free policy announced for certain Serbian nationals who enter the Schengen Area

Executive summary

On 22 July 2024, the European Council adopted a decision to suspend the visa requirement for holders of passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate who seek to enter the Schengen Area. This change will go into effect 20 days after it is published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Background

Since December 2009, holders of Serbian biometric passports have been able to enter the Schengen Area (which comprises all EU member states except Ireland and Cyprus) without a visa. However, holders of Serbian passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate in Belgrade, which issues passports to Serbian citizens residing in Kosovo, were not eligible for the visa exemption. On 16 November 2023, the European Commission introduced a proposal to eliminate this exception by revising Regulation (EU) 2018/1806.

Key developments

The recent implementation of this proposal aims to harmonize the visa policy across the [Western Balkan region](#) by extending the visa-free regime to all citizens of the countries in this region who seek to enter the Schengen Area.

Impact on employers

This change is expected to benefit employers that seek to send impacted individuals to the Schengen Area for business purposes by simplifying entry 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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