

Global Immigration alert

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Belgium

Flanders Region announces introduction of new regional fee for combined permit applications

Executive summary

The Flemish government has recently announced the introduction of a regional fee applicable to combined permit applications submitted in Flanders. Effective 1 September 2026, employers submitting combined permit applications in the Flemish Region will be required to pay a regional fee of EUR 180 per application, in addition to the existing federal contribution.

Key developments

The fee will apply to both initial applications and renewal applications and is intended to cover the administrative costs associated with the processing of work authorization requests by the Flemish authorities. Applications for work permits remain exempt from this regional fee.

While the regional fee has currently been set at EUR 180 per application, it will be indexed annually as of 1 January every year.

The newly introduced regional fee is separate from, and payable in addition to, the existing federal contribution for residence-related processing. As a result, employers should anticipate higher government costs when submitting a combined permit application.

Payment must be made through the Single Digital Gateway (Uniek Loket) at the time the application is submitted. The payment must be completed within 15 days from the start of the application. Applications will not be processed until the required payment has been received by the authorities.

Impact on employers

The new regional fee will have a direct impact on employers hiring or transferring third-country nationals to the Flemish Region. Employers should consider the additional government costs when budgeting for international recruitment, assignments and long-term workforce planning.

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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