



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



BALKAN BORDERS CROSSING GUIDE

Part III

BALKAN BORDERS CROSSING GUIDE III

Sofia, 2008

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CHAPTER 1

EU POLICY ON FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS

RIGHT OF UNION CITIZENS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS TO MOVE AND RESIDE FREELY WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE MEMBER STATES

The Union has adopted a Directive on the right of citizens of the Union to move and reside freely within the Member States, which brings together the piecemeal measures found in the complex body of legislation that has governed this matter to date. The new measures are designed, among other things, to encourage Union citizens to exercise their right to move and reside freely within Member States, to cut back administrative formalities to the bare essentials, to provide a better definition of the status of family members and to limit the scope for refusing entry or terminating the right of residence.

SUMMARY

The Directive merges into a single instrument all the legislation on the right of entry and residence for Union citizens, consisting of two regulations and nine directives. This simplification will make it easier not only for the general public but also for public authorities to exercise their rights. The Directive also sets out to reduce to the bare minimum the formalities which Union citizens and their families must complete in order to exercise their right of residence.

General provisions

This proposal is designed to regulate:

- the conditions in which Union citizens “and their families” exercise their right to move and reside freely within the Member States;
- the right of permanent residence;
- restrictions on the aforementioned rights on grounds of public policy, public security or public health.

Right to move and right of residence for up to three months

All Union citizens have the right to enter another Member State by virtue of having an identity card or valid passport. Under no circumstances can an entry or exit visa be required. Where the citizens concerned do not have travel documents, the host Member State must afford them every facility in obtaining the requisite documents or having them sent.

Family members who do not have the nationality of a Member State enjoy the same rights as the citizen who they have accompanied. They may be subject to a short-stay visa requirement under Regulation (EC) No 539/2001. Residence permits will be deemed equivalent to short-stay visas.

For stays of less than three months, the only requirement on Union citizens is that they possess a valid identity document or passport. The host Member State may require the persons concerned to register their presence in the country within a reasonable and non-discriminatory period of time.

Right of residence for more than six months

The right of residence for more than six months remains subject to certain conditions. Applicants must:

- either be engaged in economic activity (on an employed or self-employed basis);
- or have sufficient resources and sickness insurance to ensure that they do not become a burden on the social services of the host Member State during their stay. The Member States may not specify a minimum amount which they deem sufficient, but they must take account of personal circumstances;
- or be following vocational training as a student and have sufficient resources and sickness insurance to ensure that they do not become a burden on the social services of the host Member State during their stay;
- or be a family member of a Union citizen who falls into one of the above categories.

Residence permits are abolished for Union citizens. However, Member States may require them to register with the competent authorities within a period of not less than three months as from the date of arrival. Proof of registration will be issued immediately on presentation of:

- an identity card or valid passport;
- proof that the above conditions are complied with (see Article 9 of the Directive on the proof required for each category of citizen). Union citizens engaged in training must show, by means of a statement or any other means, that they have sufficient resources for themselves and for the members of their families to ensure that they do not become a burden on the social services of the host Member State. This will be sufficient to prove that they comply with the resources condition.

Family members of Union citizens who are not nationals of a Member State must apply for a residence permit for family members of Union citizens. These permits are valid for at least five years from their date of issue.

The death of the Union citizen, his or her departure from the host Member State, divorce, annulment of marriage or termination of partnership does not affect the right of family members who are not nationals of a Member State to continue residing in the Member State in question, subject to certain conditions.

Right of permanent residence

Union citizens acquire the right of permanent residence in the host Member State after a five-year period of uninterrupted legal residence, provided that an expulsion decision has not been enforced against them. This right of permanent residence is no longer subject to any conditions. The same rule applies to family members who are not nationals of a Member State and who have lived with a Union citizen for five years. The right of permanent residence is lost only in the event of more than two successive years' absence from the host Member State.

Union citizens who so request receive a document certifying their right to permanent residence. The Member States issue to third country family members permanent residence permits which are valid indefinitely and renewable automatically every ten years no later than six months after the application is made. Citizens can use any form of evidence generally accepted in the host Member State to prove that they have been continuously resident.

Common provisions on the right of residence and right of permanent residence

Union citizens qualifying for the right of residence or the right of permanent residence and the members of their family also benefit from equal treatment with host-country nationals in the areas covered by the Treaty. However, the host Member State is not obliged to grant entitlement to social security during the first three months of residence to persons other than employed or self-employed workers and the members of their family. Equally, host Member States are not required, prior to the acquisition of the permanent right of residence, to grant maintenance aid for studies, including for vocational training, in the form of grants or loans to these same persons. Family members, irrespective of their nationality, will be entitled to engage in economic activity on an employed or self-employed basis.

Restrictions on the right of entry and the right of residence on grounds of public policy, public security or public health

Union citizens or members of their family may be expelled from the host Member State on grounds of public policy, public security or public health. Under no

circumstances may an expulsion decision be taken on economic grounds. Measures affecting freedom of movement and residence must comply with the proportionality principle and be based exclusively on the personal conduct of the individual concerned; previous criminal convictions do not automatically justify such measures.

Such conduct must represent a sufficiently serious and present threat which affects the fundamental interests of the state. The mere fact that the entry documents used by the individual concerned have expired does not constitute grounds for expulsion.

In any event, before taking an expulsion decision, the Member State must assess a number of factors such as the period for which the individual concerned has been resident, his or her age, degree of integration and family situation in the host Member State and links with the country of origin. Only in exceptional circumstances, for overriding considerations of public security, can expulsion orders be served on a Union citizen if he has resided in the host country for ten years or if he is a minor.

The person concerned by a decision refusing leave to enter or reside in a Member State must be notified of that decision. The grounds for the decision must be given and the person concerned must be informed of the appeal procedures available to them. Except in emergencies, the subject of such decisions must be allowed at least one month in which to leave the Member State.

Lifelong exclusion orders cannot be issued under any circumstances. Persons concerned by exclusion orders can apply for the situation to be reviewed after a maximum of three years. The Directive also makes provision for a series of procedural guarantees. In particular the individuals concerned have access to judicial review and, where appropriate, to administrative review in the host Member State.

Final provisions

Member States may adopt the necessary measures to refuse, terminate or withdraw any right conferred by this Directive in the case of abuse of rights or fraud, such as marriages of convenience.

THE SCHENGEN AREA AND COOPERATION

During the 1980s, a debate opened up about the meaning of the concept of free movement of persons. Some Member States felt that this should apply to EU citizens only, which would involve keeping internal border checks in order to distinguish between citizens of the EU and non-EU nationals. Others argued in favour of free movement for everyone, which would mean an end to internal border checks altogether. Since the Member States found it impossible to reach

an agreement, France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands decided in 1985 to create a territory without internal borders. This became known as the "Schengen area". The name was taken from that of the town in Luxembourg where the first agreements were signed. This intergovernmental cooperation expanded to include 13 Member States in 1997, following the signing of the Treaty of Amsterdam, which incorporated into EU law on 1 May 1999 the decisions taken since 1985 by the Schengen group members and the associated working structures.

Development of Schengen cooperation and extension of the Schengen area

The first agreement between the five original group members was signed on 14 June 1985. A further convention was drafted and signed on 19 June 1990. When it came into effect in 1995, it abolished checks at the internal borders of the signatory States and created a single external border where immigration checks for the Schengen area are carried out in accordance with identical procedures. Common rules regarding visas, right of asylum and checks at external borders were adopted to allow the free movement of persons within the signatory States without disrupting law and order.

Accordingly, in order to reconcile freedom and security, this freedom of movement was accompanied by so-called "compensatory" measures. This involved improving cooperation and coordination between the police and the judicial authorities in order to safeguard internal security and in particular to tackle organised crime effectively. With this in mind the Schengen Information System (SIS) was set up. SIS is a sophisticated database used by the authorities of the Schengen member countries to exchange data on certain categories of people and goods.

The Schengen area gradually extended to include every Member State. Italy signed the agreements on 27 November 1990, Spain and Portugal joined on 25 June 1991, Greece followed on 6 November 1992, then Austria on 28 April 1995 and finally Denmark, Finland and Sweden joined on 19 December 1996. (Details of the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland are given below.)

Measures adopted by the Member States as part of cooperation under Schengen

The main measures include:

- the abolition of checks at common borders, replacing them with external border checks;
- a common definition of the conditions for crossing external borders and uniform rules and procedures for checks there;
- separation in air terminals and ports of people travelling within the Schengen area from those arriving from countries outside the area;

- harmonisation of the conditions of entry and visas for short stays;
- coordination between administrations on surveillance of borders (liaison officers and harmonisation of instructions and staff training);
- the definition of the role of carriers in measures to combat illegal immigration;
- requirement for all non-EU nationals moving from one country to another to lodge a declaration;
- the drawing up of rules governing responsibility for examining applications from asylum seekers (Dublin Convention, replaced in 2003 by the Dublin II Regulation);
- the introduction of cross-border rights of surveillance and hot pursuit for police forces in the Schengen States;
- the strengthening of judicial cooperation through a faster extradition system and faster distribution of information about the enforcement of criminal judgments;
- the creation of the Schengen Information System (SIS).

All these measures, together with the decisions and declarations adopted by the Executive Committee set up by the 1990 Implementing Convention, the acts adopted in order to implement the Convention by the authorities on which the Executive Committee conferred decision-making powers, the agreement signed on 14 June 1985, the convention implementing that agreement, signed on 19 June 1990, and the protocols and accession agreements which followed, constitute the Schengen acquis.

The Schengen Information System (SIS)

At the heart of the Schengen mechanism, an information system was set up so that the national authorities responsible for border controls and other customs and police checks carried out in their countries and for the coordination of these controls, together with the judicial authorities of these countries, can obtain information on persons or objects.

Member States supply information to the system through national networks (N-SIS) connected to a central system (C-SIS), and this IT system is supplemented by a network known as SIRENE (Supplementary Information Request at the National Entry). This network is the human interface of the SIS.

Incorporating the Schengen acquis into the EU framework

A protocol attached to the Treaty of Amsterdam incorporates the developments brought about by the Schengen Agreement into the EU framework. The Schengen area, which is the first concrete example of enhanced cooperation between thirteen Member States, is now within the legal and institutional framework of the EU and thus comes under parliamentary and judicial scrutiny and attains the objective of free movement of persons enshrined in the Single European Act of 1986 while ensuring democratic parliamentary control and giving citizens accessible legal

remedies when their rights are challenged (Court of Justice and/or national courts, depending on the area of law).

In order to make this integration possible, the Council of the EU took a number of decisions. First of all, as set out in the Treaty of Amsterdam, the Council took the place of the Executive Committee created under the Schengen Agreements. On 1 May 1999 it established a procedure for incorporating the Schengen Secretariat into the General Secretariat of the Council, including arrangements relating to Schengen Secretariat staff [Official Journal L 119 of 07.05.1999]. Subsequently, new working groups were set up to help the Council manage the work.

One of the Council's most important tasks in incorporating the Schengen area was to choose from among the provisions and measures taken by the signatory States those which formed a genuine *acquis*, i.e. a body of law which could serve as a basis for further cooperation. A list of the elements which make up the *acquis*, setting out the corresponding legal basis for each of them in the Treaties (EC Treaty or the Treaty on the European Union) [Official Journal L 176 of 10.07.1999 – corrigendum: Official Journal L 9 of 13.01.2000], was adopted on 20 May 1999. Most of these acts are published in the Official Journal.

Application of the Schengen acquis to the new Member States

The Member States that joined the EU on 1 May 2004 are bound by the entire Schengen *acquis*, but certain provisions will apply to them only after border controls have been abolished. They will be abolished by the Council when the SIS (see below) is operational in their countries and when those Member States have undergone a test to show that they meet all the conditions required for the application of compensatory measures enabling internal border controls to be abolished. This test is not new; all Schengen Member States have had to undergo it.

Relations with third countries: common principles

The gradual extension of the Schengen area to include all EU Member States has led third countries to take part in Schengen cooperation. For these countries this participation involves:

- being included in the area without checks at internal borders;
- applying the provisions of the Schengen Agreement (particularly those relating to the SIS) and all texts adopted pursuant to it (Schengen-relevant texts);
- being involved in decisions relating to Schengen-relevant texts.

In practice, this involvement takes the form of mixed committees which meet alongside the working parties of the EU Council. They comprise representatives of the Member States' governments, the Commission and the governments of third countries. Associated countries therefore participate in discussions on the development of the Schengen *acquis* but do not take part in the vote. Procedures for notifying and accepting future measures or acts have been laid down.

NEXT STEPS IN BORDER MANAGEMENT IN THE EU

In the framework of the European strategy for integrated border management, the Commission floats the idea of new tools: measures benefiting bona fide travellers from Non-EU Member Countries, EU entry/exit registration system, automated gates for checking travellers based on biometric identifiers, and an electronic system of travel authorisation for Non-EU Member Country nationals not requiring visas before travelling to a Member State.

SUMMARY

The Commission envisages a new generation of border management tools for use by Member States taking part in the Schengen cooperation and Non-EU Member Countries associated to it.

Difficulties in the current context of integrated border management*

The Commission notes a series of problems:

- the data contained in travel documents are transmitted as required by a Directive of 29 April 2004 on the obligation of carriers to transmit passenger data, at the request of the Member State of destination, but cannot be used to prevent a person from arriving at the border crossing point of that State;
- the European Union's all-or-nothing consular approach to visas means that either all nationals of a Non-EU Member Country are subject to the visa requirement or they are not. Those who are not are not subject to any checks before they arrive at the destination Member State;
- with the exception of Non-EU Member Country nationals covered by the Local Border Traffic Regulation, Community law does not allow for simplifying checks for frequent travellers to the Schengen area, notably those holding multiple-entry visas;
- since the dates of movement of Non-EU Member Country nationals across the external borders are not recorded, there is no way of systematically detecting overstayers;
- nor, given practical difficulties such as illegible stamps on travel documents, can border guards always determine an individual's length of stay. Moreover, there are no means for Member States to share any data that may be collected.

In the context of the development of a new integrated border management strategy, the Commission suggests engaging in a reflection along four lines.

A specific regime for bona fide travellers

Low-risk travellers from Non-EU Member Countries ("bona fide travellers") could be granted "Registered Traveller" status. This status, which would allow them to

benefit from a simple and automated border check upon arrival in the Member State of destination, would be obtained on a voluntary basis through pre-screening procedures at a consulate or future common visa application centre. It would be awarded on the basis of common vetting criteria (notably not having exceeded an authorised duration of stay, proof of means of subsistence, holder of a biometric passport).

Automated gates

Bona fide travellers and EU nationals with e-passports could benefit from an automated verification of identity at the border via automated gates that would read the biometric data contained in the travel documents or stored in a database and compare them against the biometrics of the traveller.

The biometric identifiers used for Non-EU Member Country nationals would be the same as for visa holders (facial image and fingerprints).

To benefit from minimum border checks, EU citizens could, in the run-up to the full introduction of biometric passports, benefit from interim schemes deployed voluntarily by the individual Member States. To make these interoperable, they could be eligible for financial support from the External Borders Fund.

Entry/exit registration system

An automatic system registering the time and place of entry and exit of Non-EU Member Country nationals admitted for short stays, both those who require a visa and those who do not, could be introduced at the borders. This system could use the same technical platform as the Schengen Information System (SIS II) and the Visa Information System (VIS). It would not only identify "overstayers" but would also provide information and data on migration flows. It could be set up at the same time as the VIS in order to use the data collected by that system. Third-party nationals not requiring visas would register their biometric data at the first entry into a Member State.

Electronic System of Travel Authorisation (ESTA)

This system would make it possible to verify that a Non-EU Member Country national not requiring a visa meets entry conditions before travelling to the EU. It would use data supplied in an electronic application, identifying the traveller and specifying travel and passport details. The Commission intends to launch a study in 2008 to analyse the feasibility of such a system and will report back to the European Parliament and the Council in 2009.

Background

This Communication follows in the wake of the EU external border management plan approved by the Council on 13 June 2002, itself based on a Communication

from the Commission (7 May 2002). It aims at the introduction of new tools to develop an integrated border management strategy.

LOCAL BORDER TRAFFIC AT EXTERNAL LAND BORDERS

This regulation establishes a regime specifically applicable to local border traffic. It authorises the implementation of bilateral agreements offering advantages to border residents crossing the external borders of the Member States. It also introduces a special visa to be issued to those subject to a visa obligation.*

SUMMARY

Conditions of entry and stay

Border residents may cross the border provided that they are in possession of a permit delivered to facilitate crossing the local border (and a passport, if the Member State in question requires it), that they are not persons in respect of whom the Schengen Information System (SIS) has been alerted, and are not deemed to be a threat to public order.

They may stay in the border area * stipulated in the bilateral agreement between the Member States and the neighbouring third country. The maximum duration of the stay may not exceed three months in any half-year period.

Permits

They will be issued with a permit. This permit will be limited to the border area and will be valid for between one and five years.

The fees will be equivalent to those payable for a short-term multiple-entry visa. Member States may, however, decide to reduce or even waive the fees.

Agreements on the implementation of the local border traffic regime

Member States may conclude agreements on local border traffic * with neighbouring third countries. They may also maintain existing agreements provided they comply with the Regulation. Furthermore, they must ensure that the third countries apply the principle of reciprocity and grant treatment that is at least comparable to citizens of the EU wishing to travel to its border area.

These agreements can allow border residents to use:

- border crossing points open only to border residents;
- special lanes at ordinary border crossing points;
- exceptional authorisations for border residents to cross the border outside

authorised border crossing points and hours.

Member States must enforce effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties in the event of misuse of the local border traffic regime. These may include cancelling or revoking the permit.

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONALS OF NON-EU MEMBER COUNTRIES

The Union has drawn up a common list of the Non-EU Member Countries whose nationals must be in possession of a visa when crossing the Member States' external frontiers, with a view to harmonising Member States' visa policies.

SUMMARY

The present Regulation sets out a list of 101 countries whose nationals must be in possession of a visa when crossing the external borders of the Member States.

For the purposes of the Regulation, "visa" means an authorisation given or a decision taken by a Member State which is required for entry into its territory with a view to:

- an intended stay in that Member State or in several Member States of no more than three months in all;
- transit through the territory of that Member State or several Member States, except for transit through the international zones of airports and transfers between airports in a Member State (airport transit).

Member States are free to decide whether or not to require visas of nationals of Non-EU Member Countries not on the common list and of stateless persons and recognised refugees. The measures taken under these arrangements are to be communicated to the Commission and published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

A Member State may exempt from visa requirements:

- civilian air and sea crew;
- flight crew and attendants on emergency or rescue flights and other helpers in the event of disaster or accident;
- holders of diplomatic passports, official duty passports and other official passports.

The Regulation allows further harmonisation between individual Member States, going beyond the common list.

Council Regulation (EC) No 851/2005 of 2 June 2005 amended Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 as regards the reciprocity mechanism. The mechanism provided for

by the latter was unsuited to situations of non-reciprocity where a country listed in Annex II to the Regulation (Non-EU Member Countries whose nationals are exempt from the visa requirement) maintains or introduces a visa requirement for nationals of one or more Member States. Solidarity with the relevant Member States means that the mechanism must be adapted and made more effective.

UNIFORM FORMAT FOR VISAS

The Union lays down a uniform format for visas to further the harmonisation of national visa policies and promote the free movement of persons in the European Union

SUMMARY

A uniform format for visas

This Regulation lays down a uniform format for visas for all the Member States.

For the purposes of the Regulation a “visa” means an authorisation given by or a decision taken by a Member State which is required for entry into its territory with a view to:

- an intended stay in that Member State or in several Member States of no more than three months in all;
- transit through the territory or airport transit zone of that Member State or several Member States.

Member States may use the uniform visa format for purposes other than those mentioned above as long as there is no confusion with the above uniform visa.

FACILITATING PROCEDURES FOR ISSUING VISAS FOR THOSE TAKING PART IN SPORTING EVENTS

The Regulation lays down special rules for members of the Olympic family with regard to the issuing of visas and the crossing of borders. The validity of these arrangements, which applied by way of derogation and were designed to avoid additional formalities, was restricted to the duration of the 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games. They were subsequently evaluated.

SUMMARY

The Regulation was not designed to abolish the visa requirement for members of

the Olympic family who are subject to it by virtue of their nationality but to lay down measures for adoption by Greece to facilitate their entry into the Schengen area in order to take part in the 2004 Games in Athens.

The special procedure for applying for visas is incorporated into accreditation request procedure that members of the Olympic family have to comply with. This means that they do not have to present themselves in person at the consular services either to make the application or to receive the visa, which is formalised instead by the marking of a specific number in the Olympic Games accreditation card.

Organisations applying for the Olympic accreditation card* for the persons selected to take part in the Games may, at the same time submit a collective group application for visas as well.

The Organising Committee* sends the applications to the consular services as quickly as possible. The services then check that the persons in question:

- have been accredited by the Organising Committee;
- hold a passport;
- have not been identified for non-admission in the Schengen Information System;
- are not deemed liable to undermine public order.

Once compliance with these conditions has been checked, the services issue a uniform short-stay, multiple-entry visa authorising a stay of up to 90 days for the duration of the Games.

If the conditions are not met, the consular services may issue a visa with limited territorial validity.

The visa takes the form of two numbers entered on the Olympic accreditation card (visa number and passport number).

The visas are issued free of charge.

When members of the Olympic family cross the external borders of the Member States:

- entry checks are limited to verifying compliance with the four conditions set out above;
- the passports of all members (whether or not they are subject to a visa requirement) are stamped on entry and exit.

The Regulation also provides for the Commission to report to the European Parliament and the Council on the functioning of the derogation on the basis of a report transmitted by Greece after the Games with a view to the organisation of the Winter Olympics in Turin.

FACILITATED TRANSIT DOCUMENT (FTD) AND FACILITATED RAIL TRANSIT DOCUMENT (FRTD)

This Regulation establishes a Facilitated Transit Document (FTD) and a Facilitated Rail Transit Document (FRTD). The purpose of these documents, which are issued by the consular authorities of the Member States, is to facilitate transit by land of third country nationals who must necessarily cross the territory of the European Union to travel between two parts of their own country which are not geographically contiguous.

SUMMARY

This Regulation establishes a Facilitated Transit Document (FTD) and a Facilitated Rail Transit Document (FRTD) for the specific and direct transit by land of third country nationals who must necessarily cross the territory of one or more Member States of the European Union (EU) in order to travel between two parts of their own country which are not geographically contiguous.

Scope and validity

The FTD and the FRTD have the same value as transit visas and are territorially valid for the issuing Member State. The FTD is valid for a maximum period of up to three years and transit based on the FTD will not exceed 24 hours. The FRTD is valid for a maximum period of up to three months and transit based on the FRTD will not exceed six hours.

No FTD/FRTD can be affixed in a travel document that has expired or with a period of validity shorter than that of the FTD/FRTD.

Conditions and issuing procedure

In order to obtain an FTD/FRTD, the applicants must meet the following conditions:

- possess a valid document, authorising them to cross external borders;
- not be persons for whom an alert has been issued for the purposes of refusing entry;
- not be considered to be a threat to public policy or the international relations of any of the Member States;
- for the FTD, have valid reasons for frequent travelling between the two parts of the territory of their country.

The application for an FTD/FRTD is presented to the consular authorities of a Member State. This procedure provides for the submission of documentation demonstrating the need for frequent travel, such as documents concerning family links or social, economic or other motives.

The fee corresponding to the administrative costs of processing the application for an FTD is EUR 5. The FRTD is issued free of charge.

Issuing and refusal of the document

The FTD/FRTD are issued by the consular offices of the Member States and may not be issued at the border.

The procedures, and appeal in cases where the consular post of a Member State refuses to examine an application or issue an FTD/FRTD, are governed by national law of the respective Member State. If an FTD/FRTD is refused, the reason will be communicated to the applicant, where required by national law.

Penalties are imposed on the holder of the FTD/FRTD in case of misuse. Such penalties will be effective, proportionate and dissuasive, and include the possibility of cancelling or revoking the FTD/FRTD.

LIMITATIONS ON THE ADMISSION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURSUING ACTIVITIES AS SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS

1) OBJECTIVE

To lay down principles to guide the Member States in the application of the policy on admission for the purpose of pursuing activities as self-employed persons

2) UNION MEASURES

Council resolution of 30 November 1994 relating to the limitations on the admission of third-country nationals for the purpose of pursuing activities as self-employed persons

3) CONTENTS

The Council recalls that, in the report on immigration and asylum adopted by the Maastricht European Council in 1991, priority was given to the harmonisation of policies on admission for the purpose of pursuing self-employed occupation. The 1994 work programme in the field of justice and home affairs also included, as a priority measure, a decision to conclude the deliberations on the admission of self-employed persons.

The approach adopted by the Member States (Part A of the resolution) is to admit, for the purpose of pursuing self-employed occupation, only those third-country nationals who add value (investment, transfer of technology, job creation) to

the economy of the host country. The general criteria for examining requests for admission of third-country nationals in search of employment are set out in Part C of the resolution. The main criterion is that Member States may allow third-country nationals wishing to pursue activities as self-employed persons to enter their territory where it has been duly established that that activity will benefit the economy of the host State.

Part C contains guidelines on the admission procedure. The admission procedure should ensure that persons who quite obviously wish to engage in paid employment or whose partnership or directorship amounts to disguised paid employment are not admitted as self-employed persons. Requests for admission must be accompanied by the following:

- documents indicating the nature, scale and duration of the activity the person wishes to engage in;
- documents indicating the number of staff likely to be required;
- a description of the premises where the activity will be carried out; such premises must be appropriate for the activity concerned;
- evidence of the funds available for the intended purpose.

The following could for example be required for assessing compliance with legislation in force, in accordance with national legislation:

- proof that the self-employed person meets the conditions of the host Member State regarding professional qualifications and access to the occupation;
- in the case of companies or firms, the instrument of incorporation, evidence of publication or registration thereof, and the names of the directors and managerial staff of the associates authorised to act on their behalf;
- proof such as police documentation or similar documents, showing the integrity of the person concerned.

Authorisation to engage in a self-employed activity will be granted in accordance with the provisions of national aliens legislation and in writing, for example in the form of a passport stamp or other document. Such authorisation will be personal and non-transferable.

All requests for renewal must, where so required under Member States' national legislation, be accompanied by documentary evidence that the self-employed person offers guarantees for the continued orderly pursuit of his occupation.

Persons already present in the territory of a Member State as students, trainees, seasonal workers, service providers, contract workers or for other reasons will not as a general rule be permitted to extend their stay for the purpose of establishing themselves as self-employed persons. Such persons must leave the country once the purpose of stay on the basis of which there were given leave to enter the country has ceased to apply.

Nothing in the resolution prevents any Member State from reserving the right

to admit to its territory, in compliance with its national legislation, third-country nationals who make substantial investments in the commerce and industry of that Member State if there are important economic grounds for derogating from the principles of the resolution.

The resolution concerns only individuals and does not affect the setting up of firms. "Activity as a self-employed person" means any activity carried out in a personal capacity or in the legal form of a company or firm within the meaning of the second subparagraph of Article 58 of the EC Treaty, without the person concerned being answerable to an employer in either case. Only those associates who are actively involved and whose presence is essential to the achievement of the company's or firm's aims and to its management may be authorised to establish themselves in the host Member State's territory.

The resolution does not apply to (Part B of the resolution):

- persons who have right of free movement under Community law and members of their families;
- third-country nationals who have been allowed admission for the purpose of family reunification.
- third-country nationals whose access to employment is covered by rights stemming from agreements concluded with third countries which are governed by Community law;
- third-country nationals entering the Member States in order to engage in paid employment;
- third-country nationals entering the Member States for study purposes.

LIMITATIONS ON THE ADMISSION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS FOR EMPLOYMENT

1) OBJECTIVE

To establish principles governing Member States' policies of admission of third-country nationals to their territories for employment.

2) SUMMARY

Current limitations are to be maintained or, where necessary, tightened up in accordance with the report on immigration and asylum policy adopted by the European Council in Maastricht in December 1991, which gave priority to the harmonisation of policies on admission.

While acknowledging the contribution of migrant workers to the economic development of their respective host countries, the Council notes that at present

no Member State is pursuing an active immigration policy, which is why temporary admission for employment may be considered only in exceptional circumstances. Present high levels of unemployment increase the need to ensure that job vacancies are filled as far as possible by Community nationals or nationals of EFTA countries which are parties to the EEA agreement.

The Council consequently resolves that the principles set out below should not be relaxed by Member States in their national legislation or in any subsequent revisions of their national legislation. They should bring their national legislation into line with these principles by 1 January 1996, although the principles are not legally binding on them and do not afford grounds for proceedings by individual workers or employers.

Member States' policies are to observe the principles set out below governing:

- admission criteria;
- admission procedures;
- period of admission;
- extension of stay;
- business visitors;
- third countries with close links with a Member State.

Admission criteria

Member States will consider requests for admission to their territories for the purpose of employment only where vacancies in a Member State cannot be filled by national and Community manpower or by non-Community manpower lawfully resident on a permanent basis in that Member State. In this context they will apply the procedure laid down in Part II of Regulation No 1612/68 on the free movement of workers within the Community.

Third-country nationals may be admitted on a temporary basis, where:

- a job is offered to a named worker or named employee of a service provider and is of a special nature in view of the requirement of specialist qualifications (professional qualifications, experience, etc.);
- an employer offers vacancies to named workers and the competent authorities consider that the grounds adduced by the employer are justified in view of a temporary manpower shortage on the national or Community labour market which would significantly affect the operation of the business or the employer himself.

Admission procedure

Vacancies are offered to:

- seasonal workers in strictly controlled numbers for a specifically defined job;

- trainees;
- frontier workers;
- intra-corporate transferees, i.e. persons temporarily transferred by their company as key personnel.

Third-country nationals will not be admitted unless they have been given prior authorisation to take up employment. The authorisation may be in the form of a work permit issued to either the employer or the employee.

Third-country nationals must also be in possession of any necessary visa or residence permit.

Initial authorisation for employment will normally be restricted to employment in a specific job with a specified employer.

Period of admission

A seasonal worker will be admitted for a maximum of six months in any twelve-month period, and must remain outside the territories of the Member States for a period of at least six months before being readmitted for employment.

Trainees will be admitted for a maximum period of one year in the first instance. This period may be fixed at more than a year and extended exclusively for the time needed to obtain a professional qualification recognised by the Member State concerned in the sphere of their activity. Other third-country nationals admitted to the territories of the Member States for employment will be admitted for a period not exceeding four years in the first instance.

Extension of stay

A person already present in the territory of a Member State as a visitor or student will not in principle be permitted to extend his stay for the purpose of taking or seeking employment. Such persons must return to their own countries on conclusion of their visit or studies. In principle a person admitted as a trainee or service provider or employee of a service provider will not be permitted to extend his stay in authorised employment except in order to complete the training or activity under contract for which he was admitted.

A seasonal worker will not be permitted to extend his stay for the purpose of taking employment of a different type. An extension of the period of his stay may be authorised to allow him to complete the work for which the original authorisation was granted. However, the total length of his stay may not exceed six months in any twelve-month period. Other workers may be permitted to extend their period of stay in authorised employment, but only if they continue to satisfy the criteria originally applied to the decision on whether to admit them for authorised employment.

The Member States will examine the desirability of issuing a permanent residence

permit to third-country nationals who have had restrictions on their employment lifted.

Business visitors

It is possible to admit as workers third-country nationals not residing in the territory of a Member State who are seeking entry to:

- negotiate for the supply of goods or services;
- deliver goods or assemble machinery manufactured in a third country as part of a supply contract, provided that such persons will be dealing only with businesses in the territory of the Member State and not with the general public and that any one visit and possibly the work permit does not exceed six months.

Third countries with close links with a Member State

A Member State may continue to admit third-country nationals to its territory for the purpose of employment pursuant to pre-existing arrangements. The Member States will undertake as soon as possible to renegotiate such arrangements in accordance with the terms of this resolution.

The resolution does not apply to:

- persons who have right of free movement under Community law and members of their families;
- third-country nationals who have been allowed admission for the purpose of family reunification;
- third-country nationals whose access to employment is covered by rights stemming from agreements governed by Community law concluded with third countries;
- persons undertaking casual work in the course of youth exchange or youth mobility schemes, including "au pairs";
- persons entering Member States in order to pursue economic activities as self-employed persons or to set up and/or manage a business/undertaking which they effectively control;
- applicants for asylum;
- third-country nationals admitted for asylum;
- displaced persons who are temporarily admitted;
- persons exceptionally allowed to stay on humanitarian grounds.

CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS FOR THE PURPOSES OF STUDIES, PUPIL EXCHANGE, UNREMUNERATED TRAINING OR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

This Directive is to harmonise national legislation relating to the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service.

SUMMARY

One of the objectives of Community action in the field of education is to promote Europe as a world centre of excellence for studies and vocational training. Promoting the mobility of third-country nationals to the Community for the purpose of studies is a key factor in that strategy. The approximation of the Member States' national legislation on conditions of entry and residence is part of this.

This Directive determines the rules concerning the procedures for admitting third country nationals to the territory of the Member States, for a period exceeding three months for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service.

The Directive distinguishes four categories of third-country nationals:

- students;
- school-pupils;
- unremunerated trainees;
- voluntary workers (volunteers).

The admission of students primarily concerns higher education as that is the level at which international mobility is most common.

Apart from determining the specific conditions for admission of each of these four categories, the Directive defines the principal criteria for the admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service, in particular the availability of adequate financial resources and admission to an educational establishment, participation in a pupil exchange scheme, signature of a training agreement or participation in a voluntary service scheme, as the case may be.

Certain categories of people are excluded from the scope of the Directive:

- asylum-seekers and persons enjoying subsidiary forms of protection or temporary protection schemes;
- third-country nationals who are family members of Union citizens who have exercised their right to free movement within the Community;
- third-country nationals who enjoy long-term resident status in a Member State in accordance with Council Directive 2003/109/EC and exercise the

corresponding right to reside in another Member State in order to study or receive vocational training.

Admission conditions

The Directive determines the basic conditions for admitting third-country nationals for the purpose of study:

- the applicant must have been accepted by an establishment of higher education;
- the applicant must have sufficient resources to cover his/her subsistence, study and return travel costs;
- the applicant must have sufficient knowledge of the language of the course to be followed (a flexible condition left to the discretion of the Member States);
- prior payment of the fees charged by the establishment (a flexible condition left to the discretion of the Member States).

As regards the admission of a third-country national already admitted as a student in another Member State, the Directive establishes a right to be admitted to another Member State where he wishes to pursue his studies. To ensure that third-country nationals do not abuse their student status by excessively prolonging their stay in the European Union, the additional course of study must be adequately related to the studies already completed.

For third country nationals who are secondary school pupils, the Directive covers only organised mobility through exchange schemes managed by specialised organisations. The following conditions apply:

- age limits are set by the Member State concerned;
- the exchange organisation must be recognised by the Member State concerned;
- the exchange organisation must accept responsibility for subsistence, study, healthcare and return travel costs;
- the admission document depends on the choice of host family. The Member State retains some room for manoeuvre to reserve exchanges for third countries that offers exchange possibilities for its own school pupils.

The Directive determines the following conditions for unremunerated trainees:

- the applicant must have sufficient resources to cover his/her subsistence, training and return travel costs;
- if the Member State so requires, the applicant must receive basic language training so as to acquire the knowledge needed for the purposes of the placement.

Third-country nationals in the category of unremunerated trainees or volunteers who are considered, by virtue of their activities or the kind of compensation or

remuneration received, as workers under national legislation are not covered by this Directive.

The Directive provides for the following conditions where a third-country national applies to be admitted to a voluntary service scheme:

- age limits are set by the Member State concerned;
- an agreement giving a description of tasks, the conditions in which the volunteer is supervised in the performance of those tasks, the working hours, and the resources available to cover travel, subsistence and accommodation costs throughout the stay;
- the organisation responsible for the voluntary service scheme must accept responsibility for the volunteer's activities and for subsistence, healthcare and return travel costs;
- the volunteer must, if the host Member State specifically requires it, receive a basic introduction to the language, history and political and social structures of that Member State.

Validity and renewal of residence permits

The period of validity of residence permits varies according to the category:

- students: a residence permit is issued to the student for a period of at least one year and renewable if the holder continues to meet the conditions. Where the duration of the course of study is less than one year, the permit is valid for the duration of the course;
- school pupils: no more than one year;
- unremunerated trainees: the duration of the placement is for a maximum of one year. In exceptional cases, it may be renewed, once only and exclusively for such time as is needed to acquire a vocational qualification recognised by a Member State;
- volunteers: no more than one year. In exceptional cases, if the duration of the relevant programme is longer than one year, the duration of the validity of the residence permit may correspond to the period concerned.

Rights of third-country nationals

The Directive provides that students shall be entitled to be employed and may be entitled to exercise self-employed economic activity. But access to economic activities for the first year of residence may be restricted by the host Member State.

Procedure and transparency

A decision on an application to obtain or renew a residence permit is subject to the following rules of transparency:

- a decision on a residence permit must be adopted, and the applicant must be notified of it, within a period that does not hamper the pursuit of the relevant studies, whilst leaving the competent authorities sufficient time to process the application;
- if the information supplied in support of the application is inadequate, processing of the application may be suspended and the competent authorities must inform the applicant of any further information they need;
- any decision rejecting an application for a residence permit must be notified to the third-country national concerned. The notification must specify the possible redress procedures available;
- where an application is rejected or a residence permit issued in accordance with this Directive is withdrawn, the person concerned shall have the right to mount a legal challenge before the authorities of the Member State concerned.

The Directive provides for an agreement on a fast-track procedure for issuing residence permits or visas to students and school pupils between the authority of a Member State with responsibility for the entry and residence of third-country nationals and an establishment of higher education or an organisation operating pupil exchange schemes.

CHAPTER II

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR CROSSING THE BALKAN BORDERS

COUNTRY	ALBANIA
Member of Schengen?	No
Nationals entering the country with a passport only	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Malta, Cyprus, Norway, Switzerland, U.S.A., Canada, Turkey, Israel, Japan, South Korea, San Marino, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, Croatia, Malaysia, Bulgaria, Romania
Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	The citizens of other countries may obtain visa at any entry point by payment: Saudi Arabia, FYR Macedonia, Bahrain, Sultanate of Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt and United Arab Emirates. Citizen of all other countries are required to obtain a visa at the nearest Albanian consulate.
Visa types and categories	N/A
Visa Application Form (link)	http://www.mfa.gov.al/formularet/formulari.doc
Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa	N/A
Fees	Nationals listed above pay an entry fee of €10 at Tirana airport or at the border crossing point, except nationals of the Czech Republic and Poland who may enter without charge. Exceptions: Montenegro (free of charge), Israel (30 euros)
Duration of stay	The foreigners that enter without a visa have the right to stay in Albania only 30 days for an entry and they may stay up to 90 days within the calendar year.

Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations	All personal items, new or old may be taken into Albania without incurring custom duties. A reasonable amount of tobacco, beverages and perfumes for personal use is allowed. Prohibited items include firearms, ammunition, narcotics, drugs and goods jeopardizing the observance of public order and social security. Special export permits are required for precious metals, ancient coins and scroll, antiques, books and works of art, which are considered to be part of national culture and heritage.
Exceptions for diplomatic/official visits	Business or other official visits sometimes have separate entry requirements.
Other useful information	During the summer tourist season, between 1 of June until 30 of September, the Albanian Government provides the following incentives. All foreign citizens of Albanian nationality can enter in Albania without visa. In such a case identity cards are accepted as valid. Do not need visa for this period of time the citizens from Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

COUNTRY	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Member of Schengen?	No
Nationals entering the country with a passport only	<p>(a) holders of valid National Identity Cards issued to nationals of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden;</p> <p>(b) nationals of Germany holding valid identity cards issued for minors called a Kinderausweis, with photo.</p> <p>(a) nationals of Australia, Canada, Japan, UK, USA and EU;</p> <p>(b) nationals of Andorra, Brunei, Croatia, Iceland, Korea (Rep), Kuwait, Liechtenstein, (Former Yugoslav Republic of) Macedonia, Malaysia, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia & Montenegro (not applicable for UNMIK passport holders), Switzerland, Turkey and Vatican City;</p> <p>(c) nationals continuing their journey to a third country by the same or first connecting aircraft, holding onward tickets, onward documents and not leaving the airport.</p>
Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	N/A
Visa types and categories	<p>Tourist: Copy of the invoice from tour operator needed</p> <p>Private Invitation letter from host, endorsed by the authorities needed</p> <p>Business: Invitation letter from the host company in Bosnia & Herzegovina, endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce needed.</p> <p>Note: Applicants from certain countries might have to submit evidence of cash assets (such as a recent bank statement), as well as evidence of a negative HIV test.</p>

Visa Application Form (link)	http://www.mfa.gov.ba/HTML/zahtjev.pdf
Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa	<p>Application requirements</p> <p>(a) Passport or official travel document valid for at least three months beyond the expiry date of the visa.</p> <p>(b) One completed application form.</p> <p>(c) Two passport-size photos.</p> <p>(d) Return/onward ticket.</p> <p>(e) Sufficient funds for duration of stay.</p> <p>For the purposes of private visit, guarantee letter/invitation by a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, shall be submitted together with the visa application.</p> <p>Guarantee letter: (private visit)</p> <p>Guarantee letter is a statement by which a citizen of BiH or a foreign citizen to whom permanent residence in BiH has been approved, overtakes as her/his obligation to provide accommodation to a foreign citizen, settle costs of medical treatment and provide support as well as settle other costs that may be incurred during the period of a foreign citizen's stay in BiH, as well as costs of her/his exit from the country.</p> <p>Guarantee letter contents:</p> <p>Guarantee letter must include an explicit statement by the guarantee provider confirming under the moral and criminal responsibility to undertake the costs of medical treatment, provide support and settle other costs that may be incurred during the period of a foreign citizen's stay in BiH, as well as costs of her/his exit from the country.</p> <p>Guarantee statement must include first and last name, date and place of birth, ID number, as well as address of residence of the guarantee provider, first and last name, date and place of</p>

COUNTRY	BULGARIA
Member of Schengen?	Yes
Nationals entering the country with a passport only	Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK (British Citizen Passport Holders and British Nationals /Overseas/ only), USA, Uruguay, the Vatican, Venezuela, SAR – China (Hong Kong, Makao)
Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	All others
Visa types and categories	<p>Airport Transit Visa (Type A Visa) – Issued to an alien who travels by aircraft, changes planes in the Republic of Bulgaria and proceeds with the journey by the next earliest connecting flight on the route.</p> <p>Transit Visa (Type B Visa) – Issued to an alien who enters the Republic of Bulgaria from one State en route to another State and who leaves the territory of Bulgaria within 24 hours.</p> <p>Short-Stay Visa (Type C Visa) – A shortstay visa is issued to an alien for a single or multiple entry into Bulgaria and a cumulative duration of the stay not exceeding 90 days within any six-month period, reckoned from the date of first entry.</p>

Visa types and categories	Long-Stay Visa (National Visa) (Type D Visa) – Issued to an alien wishing to settle durably or permanently in Bulgaria on any of the grounds listed in Articles 24 and 25 of the Aliens in the Republic of Bulgaria Act.
Visa Application Form (link)	http://www.mfa.bg/en/files/docs/07_09_06/appl_viza_eng.pdf
Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ a foreign-travel document issued in good and due form; ■ a photocopy of the pages of the foreign-travel document containing the personal data and the valid visas or residence permits held; ■ an application completed in a standard form and 1 colour photograph (passport size (3.5 by 4.5 cm), glued to the application form); ■ documents supporting the visa application, and copies of these documents; ■ proof of possession of sufficient financial means to cover the subsistence costs, to the minimum amount of EUR 50 for each day of the stay as requested by the visa application or the equivalent of this amount in another freely convertible currency, but not less than a total of EUR 500 or the equivalent of this amount in another freely convertible currency, or a document of pre-paid tourist services; ■ proof of possession of sufficient financial means to cover the accommodation costs, to the minimum amount of EUR 50 for each day of the stay as requested by the visa application or the equivalent of this amount in another freely convertible currency, or a document of pre-paid overnight stay in a collective tourist accommodation establishment, or standard invitation from a Bulgarian natural person certifying that accommodation will be provided;

Fees	<p>Single entry visas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ \$90 (regular processing) ■ \$180 (priority processing – application will be processed by the Officer instantly, which, however, does not guarantee that the issuance will be faster in all cases, as it depends on the circumstances of each case and also on other agencies involved) <p>Transit visas \$90</p> <p>Long-term visa \$150</p>
Duration of stay	<p>Single-entry visas for tourist visits are normally valid for three months from date of issue for a maximum stay of 30 days. Multiple-entry visas are for business visits and are normally valid for three months from date of issue. Transit: Up to 24 hours.</p> <p>A passport valid for at least three months after entry is required.</p>
Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations	N/A
Exceptions for diplomatic/ official visits	<p>In cases of official trips the holders of a valid laissez-passer issued by the United Nations Organisation (UNO) are exempt from the requirement to possess a visa for transit passage and for short-term sojourn for a period of up to 90 days within 6 months starting from the date of the first entry.</p> <p>In cases of official trips the holders of a valid official identification document or travel order issued within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) are exempt from the requirement to possess a visa for transit passage and for short-term sojourn for a period of up to 90 days within 6 months starting from the date of the first entry unless other provisions are stipulated in the international agreements under which the Republic of Bulgaria is a part.</p>

Other useful information	<p>Visitors must have proof of sufficient funds or onward or return tickets in addition to other documents needed for the next destination. Valid health insurance is required. All visitors to Bulgaria must register as foreigners at a local police station within five days of arrival. This registration is usually done as a matter of course through the hotel or accommodation establishment. Visitors are advised to check this, as a dated registration slip has to be submitted when leaving the country. Immigration and entry regulations are very strictly enforced. Passports of all visitors should be valid for at least six months on entry for those requiring a visa, and three months on entry for visa exempt nationals other than those from EU countries, whose passports must be valid for period of stay.</p>
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COUNTRY	GREECE
Member of Schengen?	Yes
Nationals entering the country with a passport only	Australia, Canada, all EU countries, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and the USA
Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	All others
Visa types and categories	Tourist Visa (Schengen) Business Visa (Schengen) Transit Visa (Schengen) (Also applicable to crew joining ships at Greek port) Student Visa (Less Than 90 Days) Family Reunification Visa Work Visa Student Visa (Long Term)
Visa Application Form (link)	http://www.hellas-info.org/visaapp.pdf
Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa	<p>Visa applicants must present the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Passport (or travel document accepted by the Schengen countries) The passport must be valid for a period of at least three (3) months beyond the last day of stay in Schengen countries. ■ Green card (or long-term U.S.A. visa) ■ Round trip airline ticket (or itinerary with dates and flight numbers when applying for the visa. When the visa is granted the applicant must show the original ticket. If traveling with an organized tour, a letter from

Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa

the travel agency stating that the applicant is a member of the group and the itinerary of the tour.)

- **Financial guarantee** such as: recent bank statements of checking or savings account showing adequate amounts or last months paystubs or travelers checks (approx. \$100 per day)

- **An Application Form** clearly filled in and signed. (Applicants should appear in person otherwise they should have their signature on the application form notarized.) – **One recent photograph** (passport size)

- **Fees**

The Consulate General of Greece, after evaluating the above mentioned submitted documents, reserves the right to request additional documents such as:

- Lodging information in Schengen countries (hotel reservations or hotel vouchers or rental of vacation home. In case the applicant is a guest of a relative or a friend residing in Greece a letter of the host with his/her full name and address has to be presented stamped at a Greek Police Station)
- Employment Proof a letter from the employer stating that the applicant is currently employed and the duration of his vacation, or, if the applicant is a student
- Letter from school/college/university confirming attendance
- If the applicant is under 18 years old:
 - If traveling alone a notarized authorization from both parents is necessary.
 - If traveling with one parent a notarized authorization from the other parent is necessary.

<p>Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa</p>	<p>If only one parent has the legal and full custody of the minor the court documents stating so must be presented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If the applicant wishes to go on a business trip a letter from his/her employer containing information on the purpose of the trip must be presented. If the applicant is invited to a Congress the invitation must be presented. <p>NOTE: They do not accept applications through Visa Agencies</p>
<p>Fees</p>	<p>All Visa Fees are payable in cash in the equivalent amount in Indian Rupees at the time of submission of application and are not refundable.</p> <p>TOURIST VISA (Schengen) 35 Euros</p> <p>BUSINESS VISA (Schengen) 35 Euros</p> <p>TRANSIT VISA (Schengen) (applicable to crew joining ships at Greek ports) 35 Euros</p> <p>FAMILY REUNIFICATION VISA (for Greece only) 37.50 Euros</p> <p>WORK VISA (for Greece only) 37.50 Euros</p> <p>STUDENT VISA (for Greece only) 37.50 Euros</p> <p>Additional charge of 1 Euro will be collected for approved applications.</p> <p>Additional charge of 20 Euros will be collected for attestation of police clearance certificates (applicable to work and student visas only).</p>
<p>Duration of stay</p>	<p>(a) nationals of EU countries for an unlimited period; (b) nationals of Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Romania and the USA for stays of up to 90 days.</p>

<p>Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations</p>	<p>Import regulations by Greece customs</p> <p>Import:</p> <p><i>Tobacco products</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco <p><i>Alcohol:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 liter of spirits over 22 % vol. or 2 liters of fortified wine or sparkling wine 2 liters of still wine <p><i>Perfume:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 Grams <p><i>Eau de toilette:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 ml <p><i>Other goods:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to a value of 175 Euro <p>Restricted Imports:</p> <p><i>Products of animal origin:</i> Apart from some exceptions the Community rules do not allow the importation of meat, meat products, milk and milk products by travellers.</p> <p><i>Animal or plants:</i> Travellers must be aware that certain wildlife animals or plants and parts thereof are protected by the Convention of Washington (CITES). The importation of these specimens is strongly restricted following the Community rules implementing the CITES-Convention.</p> <p><i>Pets:</i> Pet owners have to respect the Community rules on movements of pet animals.</p>
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Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations	<p>Prohibitions and restrictions in the following areas are covered by national legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drugs Medicines Weapons Explosive Material Pornographic Materials <p>If you need more information, please contact the competent authorities of your country of destination.</p> <p>Currency Controls In/Out:</p> <p>Travellers entering or leaving the Community and carrying any sum equal to or exceeding 10,000 (or its equivalent in other currencies or easily convertible assets such as cheques drawn on a third party) to make a declaration to the customs authorities.</p>
Exceptions for diplomatic/official visits	<p>Business Visa</p> <p>This visa is issued for up to 90 days and allows the holder to conduct business activities in Greece (such as attendance of business meetings, the creation of business contacts, and attendance of business seminars). A business visa does not allow the holder to work in Greece for compensation.</p>
Other useful information	N/A

COUNTRY	CROATIA
Member of Schengen?	No
Nationals entering the country with a passport only	<p>USA, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hellenic Republic, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Nicaragua, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, El Salvador, San Marino, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Swiss Confederation, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ireland, Uruguay, Vatican City, Venezuela</p>
Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	All others
Visa types and categories	<p>Travel Visa</p> <p>Issued for one, two or more visits to the Republic of Croatia, for tourist, business, personal or other purposes. Travel visa is valid for a one-year period only. Continuous stay or the overall duration of repeated entries should not exceed 90 days, during a 6-month period starting from the day of entry.</p> <p>Transit Visa</p> <p>Issued to foreign citizens for one, two or in some cases repeated travels across the Croatian territory, and is valid for a 6-month period. With a transit visa, a foreign citizen can stay in Croatia for up to 5 days maximum. Transit visa is issued to foreign citizens who have a permission to enter the country they are travelling to.</p>

<p>Visa types and categories</p>	<p>Airport Transit Visa</p> <p>In principle, a foreign citizen who during the transit landing at a Croatian airport does not leave the airplane or the international transit area does not require a visa. However, in some cases the Croatian government may require of the citizens of certain countries or passengers travelling to certain destinations to have an airport transit visa. It is issued for one or more transits through the airport international transit area not exceeding the 24-hour period.</p> <p>Group Visa</p> <p>Issued to a group of 5 to 50 persons based on a group travel document (in case of organised tourist groups who are visiting Croatia based on interstate agreements, visa can be issued to a group larger than 50) for one entry or transit through Croatian territory not exceeding the 30-day period.</p> <p>Diplomatic Visa</p> <p>Issued to holders of diplomatic passport.</p> <p>Official Visa</p> <p>Issued to holders of official passport.</p>
<p>Visa Application Form (link)</p>	<p>http://www.travelvisapro.com/htmls/visas/application_forms/croatia.pdf</p>
<p>Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa</p>	<p>A foreigner has to personally apply for a visa at the diplomatic mission/consular office of the Republic of Croatia. In exceptional, justified cases, a foreigner does not have to apply for a visa personally, but does need to appear at the diplomatic mission/consular office once it is issued.</p> <p>Along with the application form, a foreigner needs to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ travel document

<p>Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ colour photo 30x35 mm ■ documents that prove: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the purpose of visiting the Republic of Croatia, ● ensured accommodation and covered expenses of staying in the Republic of Croatia ● the intention of returning to homeland, i.e. the capacity to enter a third country ● means of travel <p>Visa is entered into a foreigner's travel document and is issued with the validation date not exceeding the document's validation date.</p> <p>In case the visa is not issued, the official person that received the application is not obliged to disclose the reasons.</p> <p>Foreigner is on a private visit, invited by a physical person</p> <p>If a foreigner is coming to Croatia on a private visit, when applying for visa, they have to submit a physical person's invitation letter for foreigners as a proof of the purpose of their visit, filled out by the inviter from Croatia.</p> <p>The content of the invitation letter is regulated by the stipulations from Article 70 of the Rule on Travel Documents for Foreigners, Visas, Border Passes and Treatment of Foreigners (<i>Narodne Novine no. 202/03, 10/05, 19/05</i>) and Article 9 of the Rule on Issuing Travel Certificates, Visas and Special IDs for Foreigners (<i>Narodne Novine no. 82/05</i>).</p> <p>The inviter can be a Croatian citizen or a foreigner whose stay in Croatia has been approved.</p> <p>The inviter is obliged to verify his signature on the invitation letter at a public notary.</p> <p>In case the inviter is present when applying</p>
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<p>Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa</p>	<p>for visa, the signature on the invitation letter can also be validated at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ diplomatic mission/consular office of the Republic of Croatia, if the inviter is a Croatian citizen, ■ the relevant body of the recipient country, if the inviter is a foreigner. <p>The invitation letter, which contains a statement on the consent to confiscation, and has the inviter's verified signature on it, has the legal effect of a valid statement of purpose and is issued as one copy.</p> <p>The diplomatic mission/consular office of the Republic of Croatia at which the foreigner is applying for a private visit visa, retains the original copy of the invitation letter.</p> <p>The applicant is given the copy of the invitation letter so that they could produce it as a proof of the purpose of their visit if requested by a border control body.</p>
<p>Fees</p>	<p>Charged at the moment of submitting the application for visa. The following amounts are expressed in kunas (HNB):</p> <p>Airport Transit Visa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ one transit 160,00 ■ two transits 200,00 ■ unlimited transits 320,00 <p>Transit Visa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ one transit 160,00 ■ two transits 200,00 ■ unlimited transits 320,00 <p>Travel Visa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ one transit 160,00 ■ two transits 200,00 ■ unlimited transits 320,00 <p>Group Visa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ per person 40,00

<p>Duration of stay</p>	<p>If you stay less than 90 days (3 months) in Croatia, your passport will be enough for entering the country, if you are a citizen of the aforementioned countries.</p>
<p>Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations</p>	<p>Customs regulations of the Republic of Croatia are harmonised with the standards of E.U. member states, but the value of objects of non-commercial character for personal use allowed to be brought into the country without tax duty or PDV (VAT) is limited to 300 HRK.</p> <p>The permitted amount of meat and milk products which can be brought in without special veterinary inspection, as well as honey, is limited to 1 kg, while the amount of wine is limited to 5 liters. Foreign and local currency may be freely taken in and out of the country; local currency up to an amount of 15, 000 HRK, but any amount brought in our taken out of the country (whether foreign currency or HRK) in an amount exceeding a value of 40,000 HRK, must be declared to the customs officers. More valuable professional and technical equipment must be declared at the border. A non-resident can freely bring in and take out cheques in HRK.</p> <p>Refund of tax when leaving the country is made to foreign nationals for individual goods purchased in Croatia for amounts in excess of 500 HRK, on presentation of a "Tax-cheque" form. This form is provided on request by a sales assistant, when items are purchased.</p> <p>Pets which are being imported, or which are travelling through for non-commercial purposes, in the company on their owner (up to 5 animals: dogs, cats, African polecat, all types of birds, rodents and domesticated rabbits, invertebrates. (with exception of bees and crabs), ornamental tropical fish, amphibians and others will be allowed to</p>

<p>Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations</p>	<p>enter Republic of Croatia only if the following conditions are fulfilled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ they have a valid international passport or health certificate (veterinary certificate) in which a licensed veterinary surgeon in the exporter's country certifies that the animal (s) in question are healthy and show no symptoms of infectious diseases which must be reported, and that they do not come from an area in which infectious diseases are present and which that particular type of animal can transfer. <p>Dogs, cats and animals of the marten family must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ marked with a clearly legible tattoo or fitted with a microchip; ■ have a passport issued by a licensed veterinary surgeon proving they have been vaccinated or re-vaccinated against rabies. For additional information please contact the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management – Veterinary administration (Tel. +385 1 610 6703 and + 385 1 610 6669; www.mps.hr)
<p>Exceptions for diplomatic/ official visits</p>	<p>Foreigner is on a business visit, invited by a legal person</p> <p>If a foreign is coming to Croatia on a business visit, when applying for visa, they have to submit a legal person's invitation letter for foreigners as a proof of the purpose of their visit, filled out by the inviting legal person from Croatia.</p> <p>The content of the invitation letter is regulated by the stipulations from Article 70 of the Rule on Travel Documents for Foreigners, Visas, Border Passes and Treatment of Foreigners (Narodne Novine no. 202/03, 10/05, 19/05) and Article 9 of the Rule on Issuing Travel Certificates, Visas and Special IDs for Foreigners (Narodne Novine no. 82/05).</p>

<p>Exceptions for diplomatic/ official visits</p>	<p>The legal person's invitation letter has to be validated with an official stamp and the signature of an authorised representative.</p> <p>The diplomatic mission/consular office of the Republic of Croatia at which the foreigner is applying for a business visit visa, retains the original copy of the invitation letter.</p> <p>The applicant is given the copy of the invitation letter so that they could produce it as a proof of the purpose of their visit if requested by a border control body.</p>
<p>Other useful information</p>	<p>Other information that the travelers might find useful</p>

COUNTRY	CYPRUS
Member of Schengen?	Yes
Nationals entering the country with a passport only	Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See (State of Vatican), Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China: Hong Kong S.A.R., Macao S.A.R.
Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burma/Myanmar, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius,

Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Northern Marianas (Islands), Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Entities and territorial authorities: Taiwan, Palestinian Authorities.
Visa types and categories	<p><i>Short-stay or travel visas, including multiple-entry visas.</i></p> <p>If you are traveling to the Republic of Cyprus for reasons other than immigration, and your visit does not exceed three months, you might need a travel visa. The travel visa gives you the right for a continuous visit or several visits to Cyprus. The duration of visits in total should not exceed three months in any half of a year from the date of the first visit. In general the short-stay Cyprus visa is issued for one or several visits.</p> <p>In case you need to come to Cyprus often (business trips etc.) it is possible to get a multiple-entry visa for several visits. The total duration of the visits should not exceed three months in any half of a year from the date of the first entry. The multiple-entry Cyprus visa is valid for one year. In exceptional cases it might be valid for more than a year but no more than five years for certain categories of persons.</p>

Visa types and categories

Long-stay visas

If you are planning to stay in Cyprus for more than three months you will have to apply for a long-stay visa.

Airport transit visa (ATV)

If you have to pass through the international transit area of Cypriot airports without actually entering the national territory of Cyprus during a stop-over or transfer between two stages of an international flight, you might need an Airport Transit Visa. The requirement to have this type of visa is an exception to the general rule to transit without a visa through Cyprus.

Transit visas

If you are traveling from one country to another country and you have to pass through the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, to do so you might need a Transit Visa. This visa may be issued for one transit, or exceptionally for several transits. The duration of each transit case should not exceed five days. The transit visa is issued provided that the entry of the traveler into the territory of the destination country is guaranteed and that the route taken normally requires transit through Cyprus.

Group visas

This is a transit visa or a visa limited to a maximum of thirty days, which may be affixed to a group passport – except where national legislation provides otherwise – issued to a group of travelers formed prior to the decision to travel. The group visa is issued, provided that the members of the group enter the territory, stay there and leave it as a group.

Group visas may be issued to groups of between 5 and 50 people. The person in charge of the group should possess an individual passport and, where necessary, an individual visa.

Visa Application Form (link)

<http://www.cyprusvisa.eu/assets/application-for-cyprus-visa.pdf>

Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa

Visa application procedure and documents required

1. Applications of all applicants are accepted regardless of nationality of the applicant.
2. Applications must be submitted in person. However, for those who reside more than 200 miles or 300 km from the Consulate application may be submitted by recorded delivery enclosing a registered self addressed "special delivery" envelope for the safe return of passport and documents.
3. One completed application form signed by the applicant (or legal guardian in the case of minors) with a passport sized photograph attached.
4. A full national passport valid for at least three months longer than the validity of the visa being applied for. Visitors who wish to obtain a visa are advised to be in possession of a passport valid at least for 6 months beyond the period of intended stay.
5. Visa for the return country must be valid for at least three months beyond the period of intended stay.
6. Provisional booking or itinerary of travel arrangements (round trip ticket with fixed dates). Ticket should not be purchased before the visa is issued.
7. Prior hotel reservation faxed by the hotel manager.
8. If visiting for business, an official letter of invitation from a South Cyprus company must be presented.
9. If visiting friends, a letter of invitation from the friends with their address, phone number and occupation in the Republic of Cyprus.

<p>Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa</p>	<p>10. Evidence that there are sufficient funds to cover the cost of the intended stay in the Republic of Cyprus , e.g. bank statement or travellers cheques (credit cards only in addition to bank statements and with recent statement confirming credit limit. Please note that cash is no acceptable proof).</p> <p>11. Recent (less than one month old) official letter from employer addressed to the Cyprus Consulate with proof of wages/salary. If self employed, a letter from the solicitor, the accountant or the bank manager of the applicant is required. If a student in the country of the Consulate, an original letter from the school or University addressed to the Cyprus Consulate confirming status/attendance and the duration of the course.</p>														
<p>Fees</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Airport transit visa (Category A)</td> <td>€10,25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transit visa (Category B)</td> <td>€10,25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Short-stay visa (1 – 90 days) (Category C)</td> <td>€10,25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multiple entry visa, valid for 1 – 5 years (Category C)</td> <td>€34,17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Visa with limited territorial validity (Categories B and C)</td> <td>€10,25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Visa issued at the border (Categories B and C)</td> <td>€10,25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group visa (Categories A, B and C)</td> <td>€34,17+ €1,71 for each group member</td> </tr> </table>	Airport transit visa (Category A)	€10,25	Transit visa (Category B)	€10,25	Short-stay visa (1 – 90 days) (Category C)	€10,25	Multiple entry visa, valid for 1 – 5 years (Category C)	€34,17	Visa with limited territorial validity (Categories B and C)	€10,25	Visa issued at the border (Categories B and C)	€10,25	Group visa (Categories A, B and C)	€34,17+ €1,71 for each group member
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National long-stay visa (Category D)	€34,17				
National long-stay visa valid concurrently as a short stay visa (Categories D and C)	€34,17				
<p>Duration of stay</p>	<p>Less than 90 days.</p>				
<p>Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations</p>	<p>Import regulations by Cyprus customs</p> <p>Free To Import:</p> <p><i>Tobacco products</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco <p><i>Alcohol:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 liter of spirits over 22 % vol. or 2 liters of fortified wine or sparkling wine 2 liters of still wine <p><i>Perfume:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 Grams <p><i>Eau de toilette:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 ml <p><i>Other goods:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to a value of 175 Euro <p>Restricted Imports:</p> <p><i>Products of animal origin:</i> Apart from some exceptions the Community rules do not allow the importation of meat, meat products, milk and milk products by travellers.</p>				

<p>Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations</p>	<p>Animal or plants: Travellers must be aware that certain wildlife animals or plants and parts thereof are protected by the Convention of Washington (CITES). The importation of these specimens is strongly restricted following the Community rules implementing the CITES-Convention.</p> <p>Pets: Pet owners have to respect the Community rules on movements of pet animals.</p> <p>Prohibitions and restrictions in the following areas are covered by national legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drugs Medicines Weapons Explosive Material Pornographic Materials <p>If you need more information, please contact the competent authorities of your country of destination.</p> <p>Currency Controls In/Out: Travellers entering or leaving the Community and carrying any sum equal to or exceeding 10,000 (or its equivalent in other currencies or easily convertible assets such as cheques drawn on a third party) to make a declaration to the customs authorities.</p>
<p>Exceptions for diplomatic/ official visits</p>	<p>Additional categories of persons who do not require visa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Holders of diplomatic, service or other official passports ■ Civilian air and sea crew ■ The flight crew and attendants on emergency or rescue flights and other helpers in the event of disaster or accident

<p>Exceptions for diplomatic/ official visits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The civilian crew of ships navigating in international waters ■ The holders of laissez-passer issued by the United Nations to their officials ■ School pupils who are travelling in the context of a school excursion as members of a group of pupils accompanied by a teacher from the school in question ■ All persons who are in possession of work permit issued by the Migration Officer ■ All persons who possess permanent or temporary residence permit issued by the Migration Officer ■ All persons who possess study permit
<p>Other useful information</p>	<p>Transit passengers continuing their onward journey by the same or first connecting aircraft within 24 hours do not need a visa, provided holding valid onward or return documentation and not leaving the airport.</p> <p>Restricted entry: The Government of Cyprus may refuse admission to holders of passports endorsed "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" or they may cancel the stamps. Other nationalities with visas or stamps for the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" in their passport, may be refused entry to the Republic of Cyprus or have the stamps cancelled. It is not possible to enter the Republic of Cyprus via the unapproved ports and airports of Ercan, Famagusta, Kyrenia or Karavostassi in the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus".</p> <p>Nationals of any country coming to Cyprus for employment or studies must secure an employment or student's permit through the Migration Officer, Nicosia prior to arrival. Applications should be submitted by the prospective employers or the directors of the schools.</p>

Other useful information

Border Checkpoints

As a peace measure to aid the unification of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots it was agreed that various crossing should be opened along what is known as the Green Line. The Green line is what serves as the current partition of Cyprus separating the Island into North and South Cyprus.

At present there are 5 active checkpoints that can be used for crossing the Green Line in Cyprus. There are plans to open more but after the opening of the last crossing, Zohdia efforts to open new checkpoints have slowed considerably.

These are the existing active Green Line Crossing Checkpoints in Cyprus:

Nicosia (Lefkosa, Lefkosia)

■ *Agios Dometios*

This checkpoint serves as a crossing for vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, and goods. The checkpoint is located in Nicosia and as you can see Nicosia also goes by two other names. Another common names for this checkpoint is Metehan which is normally used by the Turkish Cypriot community. This is the flagship of the checkpoints due to the number of people who make the crossing through it on a daily basis.

■ *Ledra Palace*

Another name for this crossing is the Ledra Palas crossing. On a daily basis this crossing is used as crossing point for cyclists and pedestrians. The only vehicles that are allowed to cross at this crossing point are diplomatic vehicles.

Other useful information

British Eastern Sovereign Base Area

■ *Black Knight*

This crossing point is also known as Azios Nikolaos, Strovilia, or Akyar. It is one of the two crossing points that lies within the British Eastern Sovereign Base Area. This checkpoint is used for the crossing of vehicles, pedestrians, and goods.

■ *Pergamos*

This crossing point may also be known as Beyarmudu, or Dhekelia, and is one of the two crossing points that lie inside the British Eastern Sovereign Base Area. This checkpoint is used for the crossing of vehicles, pedestrians, and goods

Güzelyurt (Too many to list check below)

■ *Zohdia*

As stated above Güzelyurt is known by many names. All these names are also used as names for the Zohdia crossing. So the Zohdia crossing point is also known as, Astromeritis, Güzelyurt, Morfou, Morfu, Morpho, or Omorfo. Of the current active check points this was the last to be opened to the public. This is an area that lies to the west of Nicosia and aided in establishing checkpoints in all regions of the island, mainly East, West, and Centre. The Zohdia crossing point is used for the crossing of vehicles, pedestrians, and goods.

COUNTRY	MACEDONIA
Member of Schengen?	No
Nationals entering the country with a passport only	<p>(a) nationals of Japan, UK, USA and EU (except Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia) for tourist and business stays of up to three months;</p> <p>(b) nationals of Barbados, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Croatia, Cuba, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland and the Vatican City for tourist and business stays of up to three months;</p> <p>(c) nationals of Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey for tourist and business stays of up to 60 days;</p> <p>(d) nationals of Bulgaria and Malaysia for tourist and business stays of up to one month;</p> <p>(e) nationals of CIS countries, except nationals of Moldova and Uzbekistan, can travel without a visa for purposes such as organised tourism and visiting relatives.</p>
Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	<p>(a) Nationals of the following countries need to obtain official approval from the Ministry of Interior in (Former Yugoslav Republic of) Macedonia. in order to obtain visas: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China (PR), Congo (Rep), Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hong Kong (SAR), India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, The Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam and Yemen.</p>

Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	<p>Their visas must also be issued at an embassy (including, for nationals of Czech Republic, although they do not need prior approval). All other nationals require visas, but their applications do not need to be referred to Skopje.</p> <p>(b) Any holders of travel documents other than a passport must also require approval from (Former Yugoslav Republic of) Macedonia.</p>
Visa types and categories	<p>Application requirements</p> <p>(a) Valid passport. (b) Application form, which must be submitted in person. (c) One passport-size photo. (d) Fee payable in cash.</p> <p>Tourist: (a)-(d) and, (e) Hotel reservation.</p> <p>Business: (a)-(d) and, (e) Letter of invitation from Macedonian company. (f) Business letter from the applicant's company.</p> <p>Transit: (a)-(d) and, (e) Visa for next country, if required.</p>
Visa Application Form (link)	http://www.mfa.gov.mk//Upload%5CContentManagement%5CFiles%5CMFA-VisaForm.pdf
Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa	<p>Visa Requirements and Procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Visas shall be issued only at the Embassies or Consulates of the Republic of Macedonia abroad; ■ The validity of the passport or other travel document of the applicant has to be minimum 3 (three) months;

<p>Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The applicant is to contact an Embassy or the Consulate of the Republic of Macedonia for additional information about the conditions and procedure for visa issuance; ■ The Application may be submit to the Embassy/Consulate of the Republic of Macedonia by post mail or by fax, in which case the applicant must collect the visa in person; ■ Using the List of diplomatic and consular missions of the Republic of Macedonia abroad (which can be found at the MFA's website www.mfa.gov.mk), visa applicants can choose the most convenient Embassy/Consulate to submit the Application.
<p>Fees</p>	<p>Single-entry: £13 (£21*);</p> <p>Double-entry: £17 (£25*);</p> <p>Multiple-entry: £24 (£32*).</p>
<p>Duration of stay</p>	<p>Visas are valid for 30 days. Transit visas valid for up to five days.</p>
<p>Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations</p>	<p>Free to Import</p> <p>200 cigarettes, or 100 cigarillos, or 50 cigars, or 250 gms of smoking tobacco, or Proportional quantity of various above listed tobacco products</p> <p>Alcohol and alcoholic beverages:</p> <p>2 litres of wine, and 1 litre of spirits or strong liquors</p> <p>Perfume:</p> <p>50 ml, or</p>

<p>Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations</p>	<p>Toilet water:</p> <p>250 ml.</p> <p>If you are a Macedonian citizen, you are entitled to customs allowance, along with the above mentioned goods, for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ articles you are importing occasionally for your personal use, your family use or as a gifts and their total value does not exceed 50 Euros. <p>Please note that 50 Euros customs allowance does not apply to tobacco products, alcohol an alcoholic beverages, perfume and toilet water in quantities exceeding the above listed.</p> <p>When entering into the country the residents:</p> <p>Could freely bring into the country the amount that does not exceed the equivalent of 10.000 Euros in foreign currency and checks and up to 20.000 Denars per person</p> <p>They are obliged to declare their foreign currency and checks to the Customs authority where the total amount exceeds the equivalent of 10.000 Euros</p> <p>When entering into the country the non-residents:</p> <p>Could freely bring into the country the amount that does not exceed the equivalent of 2.000 euros in foreign currency and checks and up to 20.000 denars per person.</p> <p>They are obliged to declare their foreign currency and checks to the Customs authority where the total amount exceeds the equivalent of 2.000 euros, it is compulsory to receive written certificate issued by the Customs authority</p>
<p>Exceptions for diplomatic/ official visits</p>	<p>Holders of passports issued by Diplomatic Consular Missions of one of the countries an exit visa is required issued by the competent</p>

<p>Exceptions for diplomatic/official visits</p>	<p>organs of the country. In this case as well as case of obligatory visa (Article 12 of the Law on aliens and stay longer than 60 days) tax is not charged. No tax is charged for the approval for stay.</p> <p>These countries are not charged tax for issuing visas for entry into the Republic of Macedonia.</p> <p>Holders of diplomatic, official and special passports of both countries, members of the Diplomatic Consular missions or international organizations, visa is not required during the length of their office, while if they are not holders of such function they may enter and exit without a visa up to 90 days if they are not involved in any business activities. The citizens of both countries with approved stays are not required a visa to exit and return to the country of stay.</p>
<p>Other useful information</p>	<p>1. Free of charge visas for the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ children under 6 years of age; ■ pupils, students, post-graduate students and accompanying teachers who undertake trips for the purposes of study or educational training, including in the framework of exchange programs, as well as other educational or school related activities; ■ close relatives – spouse, children (including adopted) parents (including custodians), grandparents and grandchildren of citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, legally residing in the territory of the Member States; ■ disabled persons and the person accompanying them, if necessary; ■ persons who have presented documents proving the necessity of their travel on humanitarian grounds, including to receive

<p>Other useful information</p>	<p>urgent medical treatment and the person accompanying such person, or to attend a funeral of a close relative or to visit a seriously ill close relative;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ participants in international sports events and persons accompanying them in a professional capacity; ■ persons participating in scientific, research, cultural and artistic activities including university and other exchange programmes; ■ participants in official exchange programmes organized by twin cities; ■ journalists; ■ pensioners; ■ drivers conducting international cargo and passenger transportation services to the territories of the Member States in vehicles registered in the Republic of Macedonia; ■ members of train, refrigerator and locomotive crews in international trains, travelling to the territories of the Member States; ■ representatives of civil society organizations when undertaking trips to attend meetings, seminars, exchange programs or trainings courses; ■ representatives of religious communities registered in the Republic of Macedonia; ■ members of the professions participating in international exhibitions, conferences, symposia, seminars or other similar events held in the territory of the Member States; ■ Mayors and members of the municipal councils;
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Other useful information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Members of official delegations who, following an official invitation addressed to the Republic of Macedonia shall participate in meetings, consultations, negotiations or exchange programmes, as well as in events held in the territory of the Member States by intergovernmental organizations. <p>Bulgaria and Romania which are bound by the Schengen acquis, but which do not yet issue Schengen visas, may waive the fees for processing national short stay visa applications for citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, until the day to be determined by the Council Decision for their full implementation of the Schengen acquis on visa policy.</p>
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COUNTRY	MONTENEGRO
Member of Schengen?	No
Nationals entering the country with a passport only	<p>Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Great Britain, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Island, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Vatican, Andorra, San Marino, Israel, Cyprus, Malta, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Croatia, United States of America, Canada, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>The citizens of Albania, Russian Federation and Ukraine may enter and stay on the territory of the Republic of Montenegro only for tourist visits up to 30 days with all types of traveling documents.</p> <p>The citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia may enter and stay up to 30 days on the territory of the Republic of Montenegro with a personal ID card, along with a tourist pass issued at border crossings.</p> <p>Decision on terms under which foreigners can enter and stay in the Republic of Montenegro stipulates that citizens of European Union member states (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, Great Britain, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Cyprus and Poland) can enter and stay in the Republic of Montenegro with their identity cards.</p>
Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	The citizens of other countries need visas except in cases of having special bilateral agreements on visa regime. However, according

Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	to the previous announcements, it is possible to issue a visa or a tourist pass at the Republic of Montenegro border crossings, but only in cases of direct entrance on the territory of the Republic of Montenegro.
Visa types and categories	(If the country is not a member of Schengen or if there are any particularities concerning the Schengen provisions on visa types)
Visa Application Form (link)	N/A
Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa	<p>Passport</p> <p>Two photographs</p> <p>50 E</p> <p>Application form</p> <p>Certificate on permanent employment, copy of the employment register (for people from privately-owned companies – a proof that the company has been registered)</p> <p>An invitation letter or a guarantee letter (for companies – sealed in the Chamber of Commerce, and for a tourist visit – a proof that hotel accommodation has been paid for)</p> <p>Bank approval on sustainable financial means</p> <p>Return ticket reservation</p> <p>Health insurance policy abroad at Lovcen insurance AD Podgorica, Marko Miljanov 29, tel:081/230-739 and Agency Eva-San, Novaka Miloševa 6/2, Podgorica, tel:081/244-730</p>
Fees	<p>As a general rule the visa fees are as follows:</p> <p>A, B and C type visas: 35 euro</p> <p>A, B and C type visas in express procedure: 45 euro</p>

Fees	<p>D type visas for residents*: 50 euro</p> <p>D type visas for non-residents: 75 euro</p> <p>D type seasonal work visa: 30 euro</p> <p>Surcharge for a visa issued on a separate sheet**: 25 euro</p> <p>Posting a visa***: 25 euro</p>
Duration of stay	Regulations of the duration of the stay apply (<90 days)
Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations	<p>Free import</p> <p><i>A. All passengers, regardless of nationality</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 grammes of tobacco; 1 litre of wine and 1 litre of spirits; 1/4 litre of Eau de Cologne and a reasonable quantity of perfume; <p><i>B. Foreigners, and nationals of Montenegro (Rep. of) working abroad</i></p> <p>Personal effects, such as jewellery and clothing, 2 photo cameras, 1 video camera, 1 pair of binoculars, camping equipment (tent, etc.), 1 bicycle (engine powered or not), sporting requisites (e.g. 1 of each fishing equipment; diving equipment; 1 hunting arm with appropriate quantity of ammunition; 1 pair of skis; 2 tennis rackets). Moreover, if portable 1 musical instrument, 1 CD/MP3 player, 1 laptop etc.;</p> <p>Required verbal declaration that the goods are temporarily imported. However, for all other articles imported for personal use (e.g. video-camera, video-recorder etc.) a written declaration for temporary import is required. Nationals of Montenegro working abroad must provide a written declaration stating that the items concerned are temporarily imported.</p>

Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations	<p><i>C. Nationals of Montenegro (Rep. of)</i></p> <p>Articles (not including goods included in "A." above) up to the value of USD 100.-.</p> <p><i>Additional Information on regulations</i></p> <p>All passengers may import, upon payment of import duties, articles for personal use. Montenegro (Rep. of) is a member of the CITES Treaty.</p> <p><i>Export regulations</i></p> <p>All passengers may export articles not of a trading nature if not forbidden by law or needing export licence. An export licence may be required for articles of archaeological, historical, ethnographic, artistic, scientific or cultural value (e.g. gold, gold coins, paintings, antiques, hunting trophies, etc.). For information apply at customs town or airport offices.</p> <p><i>Crew members customs regulations</i></p> <p>Same regulations as for passengers apply.</p> <p><i>Pets</i></p> <p>Cats and dogs must be accompanied by a veterinarian Good Health Certificate legalised by the Veterinary Authorities at the point of origin or departure.</p> <p><i>Baggage Clearance regulations</i></p> <p>Baggage is cleared at the first airport of entry in Montenegro (Rep of). Exempt The baggage of passengers in transit with a final destination outside of Montenegro (Rep. of).</p>
	<p>Exceptions for diplomatic/ official visits</p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p>Other useful information</p> <p>N/A</p>

COUNTRY	ROMANIA
Member of Schengen?	Yes
Nationals entering the country with a passport only	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EU Members Andorra 2. Antigua and Barbuda 3. Argentina 4. Australia 5. Bahamas* 6. Barbados* 7. Brazil 8. Brunei 9. Canada 10. Chile 11. Costa Rica 12. Croatia 13. Guatemala 14. Holy See 15. Honduras 16. Israel 17. Japan 18. Malaysia 19. Mauritius* 20. Mexico 21. Monaco 22. New Zealand 23. Nicaragua 24. Panama 25. Paraguay 26. Saint Kitts and Nevis* 27. Salvador 28. San Marino 29. Seychelle* 30. Singapore 31. South Korea 32. United States of America 33. Uruguay 34. Venezuela
Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	N/A

<p>Visa types and categories</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Airport transit visas, symbol A; 2. Transit visas, symbol B or B/CL when applied to groups – (collective visa); 3. Short-stay visas, identified by one of the following symbols, according to the type of activities the applicant will undertake in Romania: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ mission (symbol C/M) ■ tourism (symbol C/TU or CL/TU, when applied to groups); ■ visit (symbol C/VV); ■ business (symbol C/A); ■ transport (symbol C/TR); ■ sports (symbol C/SP); ■ cultural, scientific and humanitarian activities, short-term medical treatment or other activities that do not infringe Romanian law (symbol C/ZA). 4. Long-stay visas, identified by one of the following symbols, according to the type of activity the applicant will undertake in Romania: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ economic activities (symbol D/AE); ■ professional activities (symbol D/AP); ■ commercial activities (symbol D/AC); ■ labor contract (symbol D/AM); ■ studies (symbol D/SD); ■ family unification (symbol D/VF); ■ aliens married to Romanian citizens (symbol D/CR); ■ religious or humanitarian activities (symbol D/RU); ■ purposes other than those listed (symbol D/AS); ■ diplomatic and official service visa (symbol DS).
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<p>Visa Application Form (link)</p>	<p>Visa APP Short stay: http://www.mae.ro/poze_editare/2007.02.01_FormularSS.pdf</p> <p>Visa APP Long stay: http://www.mae.ro/poze_editare/2007.02.01_FormularLS.pdf</p>
<p>Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa</p>	<p>Article 30 from the Romanian Government's Emergency Ordinance no. 194/2002 regarding the status of aliens in Romania, with all the subsequent additions and alterations, provides that the competent authorities shall grant Romanian entry visas as follows:</p> <p>(1) The Romanian visa is granted by the Romanian diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad.</p> <p>(2) The list of states whose nationals need a visa in order to enter the territory of Romania is the one provided for in Annex 1 to the Council Regulation (EC) 539/2001, listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement, published in the Official Journal of the European Communities L/81 from the 21st of March 2001.</p> <p>(3) Short-stay visas are granted by the Romanian diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad, according to the following provisions:</p> <p>(a) without the prior approval of the Romanian National Visa Center, for aliens arriving from the states mentioned at point (2) and for which the invitation procedure is not mandatory;</p> <p>(b) with the prior approval of the Romanian National Visa Center, for aliens arriving from the states enumerated in the list provided for in article 36, point (2).</p> <p>(4) In view of the approval of short-stay visas applications, the Romanian National Visa Center claims the approval of the Romanian</p>

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needed for the issuance
of a visa**

Immigration Office only in those cases established through the protocol endorsed by means of the common order of the Romanian Minister of External Affairs and the Romanian Minister of Home Affairs.

(5) The approval of the Romanian Immigration Office provided for at point (4), will be based on meeting all the requirements stipulated in article 6, point (1), sub-points (a), (e), (e¹), (e²) and (f), article 8, point (1), sub-points (b)-(d), as well as article 27, point (2), sub-points (b¹), and (b³).

(6) The Romanian Immigration Office will give the approval within 7 working days' time, starting from the date when the visa application is received from the Romanian National Visa Center. In highly justifiable occurrences, the term can be prolonged up to 7 working days.

(7) The long-stay visa is granted by the Romanian diplomatic missions and consular posts, with the approval of the Romanian National Visa Center, only upon a prior endorsement from the Romanian Office for Immigration.

(8) The approval of the Romanian Immigration Office provided for at point (7), will be based on meeting all the requirements stipulated in article 6, point (1), sub-points (a), (e), (e¹), (e²) and (f), as well as article 8, point (1), sub-points (b)-(d) and article 27, point (2), sub-points (b¹), and (b³), as well as based on the fulfillment of all the special conditions afferent to each type of visa.

(9) The Romanian Immigration Office will issue the approval in a term of 30 working days starting from the date of receiving the visa requests from the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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of a visa**

(10) Long-stay visas for aliens who are family members of Romanian citizens will be granted by the Romanian diplomatic missions and consular posts with the exemption from consular fees.

Visas can be issued with one or more entries.

Short-stay and transit visas can be exceptionally granted by border officials, at the state border-crossing points, according to the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) no. 415/2003, on the issue of visas at the border, including the issue of such visas to seamen in transit, published in the Official Journal of the European Union L/64 from the 7th of March 2003 and as well, according to the provisions of Regulation (EC) no. 562/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Border Code), from the 15th of March 2006, published in the Official Journal of the European Union L/105 from the 13th of April 2006.

Fees

Official and short-term visas:

- one entry – 25 US dollars
- multiple entries – 60 US dollars

Transit visas:

- simple (and for simple airport transit) – 15 US dollars
- double (and for double airport transit) – 25 US dollars

For an expeditious issuance of visas (within 48 hours) an additional fee of 6 UD dollars will be added. Potential extra costs for other consular services are to be recovered on a separate basis.

Duration of stay	<p>Visas are valid and entitle holders to stay on the territory of Romania for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 90 days, with the possibility of extension within the country, in the case of long-stay visas; b. up to 90 days with no possibility of extension within the country, in the case of short-stay visas; c. 5 days from the entry date, in the case of transit visas.
Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations	<p>Import:</p> <p><i>Tobacco:</i> 200 cigarettes or 50 cigar</p> <p><i>Alcohol:</i> 1 litres of spirits over 22%, 90 litres of wine (though no more than 6 litres of sparkling wine) or 10 litres of beer</p> <p><i>Coffee:</i> 500g</p> <p><i>Tea:</i> 200g</p> <p><i>Perfume:</i> 50 ml</p>
Exceptions for diplomatic/official visits	<p>No visa fee is required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ representatives of International Organizations of which Romania is a member; ■ members of foreign diplomatic missions and consular offices, who are accredited in Romania, persons who travel together with Heads of States or Prime Ministers; ■ members of parliamentary delegations and other officials, as well as their family members, on the basis of reciprocity; ■ organized tourist groups, on the basis of the provision of evidence of prior payment of the services (voucher).

Other useful information	<p>Vaccination against typhoid is advised.</p> <p>Food drink: Mains water is normally chlorinated, and whilst relatively safe, may cause abdominal upsets; visitors are thus advised to drink bottled water. Romania has currently been experiencing water shortages and visitors may find that tap water is only available during certain hours. This is particularly true around Bucharest and other large towns. Visitors in the mountain areas will find it less of a problem as the water is supplied by local mountain springs, full of natural minerals and very safe. Milk is pasteurised and dairy products are safe for consumption. Local meat, poultry, seafood, fruit and vegetables are generally considered safe to eat.</p> <p>Other risks: Hepatitis A and tuberculosis occur and hepatitis B is endemic. Rare West Nile Fever outbreaks have been reported in the southeast. Brucellosis occurs sporadically although risk to the traveller is low. Stray dogs may carry African Typhus disease.</p> <p>Rabies is present. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten, seek medical advice without delay. For more information, see the Health appendix.</p> <p>Health care: Medical facilities in Romania are poor and there is a serious shortage of basic medical supplies and qualified personnel. Nationals of countries who do not have a reciprocal health agreement with Romania are expected to pay immediate cash for health services. Health insurance is strongly advised.</p>
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COUNTRY	SERBIA
Member of Schengen?	No
Nationals entering the country with a passport only	<p>1. The visas for the entry and stay in Serbia up to 90 days shall be abolished for all types of travel documents for citizens of the following countries: the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Great Britain, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Vatican, Andorra, San Marino, Israel, Cyprus, Malta, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Croatia, the United States of America, Canada, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>2. The citizens of Albania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine may enter and stay in the Republic of Montenegro for tourist visits in the territory of Montenegro individually and in organized groups on the basis of a travel document without a visa.</p> <p>The citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia may enter and stay in the Republic of Montenegro for tourist visits in the territory of the Republic of Montenegro with a travel document or a personal ID card.</p>
Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	All other countries
Visa types and categories	N/A
Visa Application Form (link)	N/A

Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa	<p>For all information related to consular matters (e.g. visas, citizenship, estates, etc.), please contact in person by telephone or E-mail the nearest Diplomatic/Consular Mission of Serbia as listed below.</p> <p>Information for foreign nationals visiting Serbia who are required to obtain visas:</p> <p>1. Valid Passport; Letter of invitation (verified by the competent Serbian authority) or an invitation by a company for a business visit or a receipt or authorized tourist company certifying that the travel arrangement has been paid for (letter of credit or other payment receipt);</p> <p>Return ticket;</p> <p>Proof of sufficient funds in hard currency and</p> <p>2. Certificate that a health fund shall cover the medical costs in Serbia, if any.</p> <p>Note: Transit visa applicants are required to obtain the visa for the country they will enter after the transit through Serbia.</p>
Fees	N/A
Duration of stay	No longer than 90 days
Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations	<p>Travellers are exempted from import taxes on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ personal luggage; ■ articles for personal use and use of family members up to a total equivalent value of EUR 100 in the local currency (This does not apply to foreign travellers); ■ books and publications of a scientific, educational or cultural nature and documents; ■ own publications imported by researchers, writers and artists;

Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ decorations, medals, plaques, sporting or other trophies or items awarded as prizes abroad at competitions, exhibitions or events of international importance; ■ farm or livestock products from the border zone that are brought in by citizens living in the border zone. <p>Articles not to be imported</p> <p>Travellers should not import any of these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ any commercial goods; ■ narcotic drugs, poisons or any other toxic substances; ■ arms and ammunition (except for temporary import of hunting weapons with corresponding rounds of ammunition in case of organized game shooting); ■ pesticides; ■ any material that contains substances that are harmful to public health and interests of the country. <p>Temporary import of goods or items</p> <p>Both residents and foreign nationals visiting for shorter periods of time may temporarily import articles that are needed by them during their visits.</p> <p>These articles should be listed on Form 7 "Effects temporarily imported along with information on the traveller and description of goods that will permit their identification".</p> <p>This list is to be signed and affixed seal to by the customs official. A comment "PUR" (meaning "temporarily imported goods") is then written in the passport, dated and signed.</p> <p>Temporarily imported articles must be exported when first leaving the country. The PUR comment should be crossed out on that occasion.</p>

Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations	<p>How motor vehicles may be temporarily imported and exported</p> <p>Foreign nationals and residents living abroad may enter the country in a vehicle bearing foreign registration plates and drive it as long as the reasons (visit, holiday, business) for it exist.</p> <p>Foreign nationals staying for more than three months (students, foreigners married a national, business undertaking) may temporarily import a vehicle free of duty provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The vehicle is under six years old; 2. The person is allowed to stay in the country for more than three months; 3. The person has owned the vehicle at least six months prior to entering the country. <p>If conditions 2 and 3 are not applicable, a motor vehicle may be imported temporarily only if it is not older than six years. In that case, 3 per cent of all import taxes payable on the vehicle if sold on the date of the temporary import declaration will be paid for each month or part of the month during which the vehicle has been on the temporary import regimen.</p>
Exceptions for diplomatic/ official visits	<p>Business or other official visits sometimes have separate entry requirements.</p>
Other useful information	<p>What you need to know on entering Serbia</p> <p>To make your visit a pleasurable experience and avoid possible misunderstandings and unnecessary delays at the border, it would be useful to remind you of the main rules to be followed and the obligations to be complied with in going through the customs.</p> <p>Always stick to the golden rule: Declare everything you have in your luggage or on you.</p>

Other useful information

Declaring items brought into the country

When crossing the border of Serbia, each traveller is required to declare and show, if asked, to the customs officer all items he/she is bringing into the country.

Personal luggage and items for personal use or use of family members are declared orally (unless the customs officer has not explicitly asked for a declaration to be made in writing). An exception in this respect are articles that are being imported or exported temporarily. Such articles are, as a rule, declared in writing.

Beside personal luggage, the goods to be imported or exported include household effects and non-commercial goods intended to cater for the needs of members of the family.

Personal luggage

Personal luggage may contain any items that the traveller is carrying on his/her journey and are needed for that purpose, such as clothes, shoes, toiletries, food items and other articles intended for personal use. Quantities of these luggage items will vary depending on the purpose of journey, sex, occupation, season or other circumstances relating to the journey and stay of the traveller in this or in a foreign country.

Items such as one litre of strong alcoholic drink, one perfume, one toilet water, 200 cigarettes or an appropriate quantity of tobacco products and medicines for personal use in normal quantities are also regarded as personal luggage.

Customs clearance

The goods imported should be cleared through the customs, in normal or summary procedure.

Other useful information

A specific feature of summary procedure is that it is simple and the traveller does not have to wait long for the items to be cleared at the border crossing point.

Such customs clearance procedure is applied to items intended for personal or household use whose value does not exceed EUR 3,000. If they are in excess of that value, normal procedure is applicable.

All duties payable in a summary procedure are under 33 per cent of the value of articles.

The traveller will receive a pro forma invoice of import taxes on carry-on items (Form 6).

Items that the traveller fails to declare up to the point when the customs officer asks him/her to show the items are considered as undeclared items. Such items will be confiscated until the relevant procedure is completed.

COUNTRY	TURKEY
Member of Schengen?	No
Nationals entering the country with a passport only	<p>Period of Visa Exemption: 3 Months Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (only passports of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region), Iceland, Iran, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Morocco, Norway, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, St. Lucia, St. Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad-Tobago, Tunisia, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Vatican.</p> <p>Period of Visa Exemption: 2 Months Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Indonesia, Macedonia, Romania</p> <p>Period of Visa Exemption: 1 Month Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, South Africa</p>
Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	<p><i>Ordinary passport holders from the following countries may obtain sticker type visas at the Turkish International Border Gates to enter into Turkey</i></p> <p>Duration of Stay: 3 Months U.S.A, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Netherlands, England, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Canada, Portugal</p> <p>Duration of Stay: 1 Month Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Slovakia,</p>

	<p>Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Yugoslavia.</p> <p>Duration of Stay: 15 Days Georgia</p> <p><i>Ordinary passport holders from the following countries should obtain a visa through The Turkish Consulate and/or Embassy in their country</i></p> <p>Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central Africa, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Cote D'ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iraq, Kiribati, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Panama, Papua, New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic Of China, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga Islands, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Western Samoa, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.</p>
Countries whose nationals are required to issue a visa	
Visa types and categories	<p>There are two types of visas in the Turkish practice:</p> <p>1) Entry visa (single entry, multiple entry and entry with special annotations)</p> <p>2) Transit visa (single and double transit)</p>
Visa Application Form (link)	http://www.mfa.gov.tr/data/KONSOLOS-LUK/visaform.doc
Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa	As a general rule, the applicant must apply in person particularly when the visa application is lodged for the first time. Visa applications

Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa	<p>may also be received by mail in exceptional cases, especially in geographically large countries and when the applicant is well known by the Turkish Embassy/Consulate where the application is lodged.</p> <p>The applicant is required to submit the following documents while applying in person:</p> <p>Valid travel document (passport) (It should be valid at least three months longer than the expiry date of the requested visa),</p> <p>Completed visa application form,</p> <p>One passport size photograph of the applicant (It should be affixed on the top left side of the visa application form),</p> <p>Documents supporting the purpose and the conditions of the planned visit (e.g. letter of invitation, travel itinerary, round trip ticket, hotel reservation with payment guarantee etc.),</p> <p>Guarantees regarding means of subsistence,</p> <p>Non-refundable visa processing fee (the amount differs depending on the nationality and visa type</p> <p>If the person applies from a country other than his/her homeland, then he/she should also submit his/her valid residence permit or any document that proves he/she legally stays in that country.</p> <p>If the person applies for a business visa, an invitation letter from the counterpart company is also required in addition to the above mentioned documents.</p> <p>Note: Please be informed that the requested documents may vary according to the local conditions where the Turkish Embassy/Consulate is based.</p>
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Specific documents needed for the issuance of a visa	<p>Note: If the relevant Turkish Embassy/Consulate exceptionally receives the visa applications by mail or by courier service, the applicant must send the above mentioned documents and also a pre-paid or self-stamped return envelope (DHL, Fed Ex, Express, UPS, or some sort of insured/certified mail is highly recommended, since the original passport will be returned inside that envelope). Please contact with the nearest Turkish Embassy/Consulate to learn whether they receive the applications by mail or not.</p>
Fees	<p>From 10 to 60 USD, depending on the country.</p>
Duration of stay	<p>Single entry visa is valid for one year and allows its holder, depending on the nationality and passport type, to stay in Turkey up to three months and to visit the country only one time.</p> <p>Multiple entry visa is valid for up to five years and allows its holder to make multiple visits and, depending on the nationality and passport type he/she can stay one to three months each time he/she enters into Turkey.</p> <p>Transit visa is valid for up to three months and allows the person to travel to another country through transiting the Turkish territory.</p>
Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations	<p>In order to take a pet into Turkey for a temporary period the following documents should be legalized by the Turkish consulate abroad:</p> <p>A certificate of health stating that the animal is in good health and that it has been vaccinated against rabies, issued not more than 15 days before traveling to Turkey should be stamped by the Ministry of Agriculture or the related Ministry of the home country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Export certificate (certificate of origin) issued by the Ministry of Agriculture or by

<p>Pets, vehicles and miscellaneous regulations</p>	<p>the related Ministry or by the Foreign Office of the home country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A written statement from an accredited veterinarian that the animal is at least 3 months old. ■ A pet identification card. ■ For more information please contact with the nearest Turkish Consulate or Turkish Embassy in your country.
<p>Exceptions for diplomatic/ official visits</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Other useful information</p>	<p>An entry visa enables the bearer to stay in Turkey for the duration stated on the visa sticker. However, if the person intends or is obliged to stay in Turkey longer than the permitted duration, this extension is subject to the approval of the Ministry of Interior. In this case, the person has to obtain a residence permit.</p> <p>Applications for residence permits should be made to the Alien's Branch of Local Police Departments (Emniyet Mudurlugu Yabancilar Subesi) within 30 days upon arrival at Turkey. Applicants are generally required to submit work permit, work visa, education visa or research visa and a letter describing his/her circumstances (i.e. employment, education, marriage to a Turkish citizen).</p> <p>Once the person is granted with the residence permit, he/she can enter into Turkey multiple times as long as his/her residence permit is valid and thus he/she does not need a visa for entry into Turkey. If the extension of the residence permit is required, the extension or renewal should be made timely before the expiry date. The person is recommended to have the validity of the residence permit extended before leaving Turkey, if the validity of residence permit is to expire or has already expired.</p>



Published by:
BULGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
with the support of the Liaison Office of the
Association of the German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK)
at the Association of the Balkan Chambers of Commerce (ABC)
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