

June 12, 2015
2015-075

flash Alert

A Publication for Global Mobility and Tax Professionals by KPMG's Global Mobility Services Practice

Belgium – End of Transitional Measures for Croatian Workers

by Nele Godefroid and Hanne Scheelen, KPMG Tax and Legal Advisers, Brussels (KPMG Tax and Legal Advisers in Belgium is a KPMG International member firm)

The KPMG International member firm in Belgium has received confirmation, informally, from the Belgian competent authorities that the first transitional period whereby Croatian nationals have been required to obtain a work permit to perform professional activities in Belgium will not be extended.¹ This has not yet been announced officially.

Why This Matters

Croatian nationals in Belgium for work purposes after 30 June 2015 or coming to work in Belgium after 30 June 2015, will not be required to apply for a work permit as from 1 July 2015. However, they should check with the local authorities (*Le service des étrangers*) in Belgium with respect to obtaining appropriate residence permits.

Background

On 1 July 2013, the Republic of Croatia joined the European Union (EU). The treaty of accession permits the existing EU member states to depart from normal EU provisions concerning free movement rights, and thereby they may apply transitional restrictions on Croatian nationals' access to their labor markets.

While in principle EU nationals do not require a work permit to perform professional activities in Belgium, when Croatia joined the EU, Belgium exercised its right to impose a transitional period that restricted the right of Croatian nationals to work in Belgium during an initial period of two years, until 30 June 2015.

Croatian nationals therefore still required a Belgian work permit prior to starting their professional activities on Belgian territory until the end of this transitional period.

End of Transitional Period for Croatian Nationals

In principle, as from 1 July 2015, Croatian nationals are no longer required to apply for a Belgian work permit prior to the start of their professional activities on Belgian territory.

Footnote:

1 KPMG in Belgium learnt of this through a 29 May 2015 telephone conversation with an official in the *Direction générale Office des étrangers*.

* * * *

6 – 8 October 2015: Save The Date! KPMG's Global Mobility Forum in Rome!

Deploying Talent in the Borderless Economy

If you think it has become easier to deploy talent in the global economy, it is time to reconsider. The trend toward stricter immigration regulation defies the borderless economy. Taxes present significant hurdles to the free movement of employees across geographies. The diversity of labor laws complicates decisions with respect to benefit plan offerings and participation in the cross-border environment. The cost of compliance has never been higher.

Please 'Save the Date' in your calendar today and join us in Rome at KPMG's Global Mobility Forum to discuss and better understand the challenges of deploying talent in the borderless economy.

Venue: Rome Cavalieri Hotel, Rome Italy

For further information please contact your local KPMG People Services or Global Mobility Services representative or send an e-mail to: GO-FMFORUM@kpmg.com .

The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in Belgium. The information contained herein is of a general nature and based on authorities that are subject to change. Applicability of the information to specific situations should be determined through consultation with your tax adviser.

Flash Alert is a GMS publication of KPMG LLP's Washington National Tax practice. To view this publication or recent prior issues online, please click [here](#). To learn more about our GMS practice, please visit us on the Internet: click [here](#) or go to <http://www.kpmg.com> .