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News Digest Issue 4

Highlights: Country News

27/09/2013

EU assists Armenia in border modernization

The project designed to modernize Bagratashen, Bavra and Gogavan border crossings on Armenia's border with Georgia is another evidence of EU's consistent assistance to Armenia, according to the head of the EU Delegation to Armenia Traian Hristea.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

25/09/2013

UN: influx of refugees to Azerbaijan might grow

The representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees Doug Sigurdson has noted that although Azerbaijan is itself a party of conflict and has internal refugees over 20 years, it also provides a shelter for refugees from outside.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

18/09/2013

Azerbaijan plans to sign agreement on visa regime simplification with EU before Eastern Partnership Vilnius summit

Azerbaijan is expecting to sign an agreement on visa regime simplification with EU countries before the summit of Eastern Partnership to be held in Vilnius at the end of November. Mahmud Mammadgulyev, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, announced at the meeting with the members of Caspian European Integration Business Club that the decision on signing the visa regime simplification agreement has already been coordinated and the document just needs to be signed.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

29/08/2013

Russia and Georgia provide two thirds of tourist traffic to Azerbaijan due to visa-free regime

Russia and Georgia provide 68.3% of foreign citizens' traffic to Azerbaijan that can nominally be considered tourist traffic. According to the Azerbaijan Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 1.2 million foreign citizens arrived to the country in the first half of 2013 that was by 108,000 people (9.9%) more than the last year.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

02/07/2013

New Migration Code took effect in Azerbaijan

The Azerbaijani Migration Code took effect from August 1, 2013. The Parliament of Azerbaijan passed a bill approving the Migration Code, its start date and related legal regulations.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

26/09/2013

Belarus to revise law on migrant workers in 2014

The development of a new version of the law on external labour migration will be launched in 2014, deputy head of the Department for Citizenship and Migration of the Interior Ministry of Belarus Alexander Tatura said at the expert seminar “Labour migration in the Union State: state and prospects” on 26 September.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

23/09/2013

Belarus–Ukraine first border marker to be mounted at three borders junction

The first border marker on the Belarus–Ukraine border might be installed at the junction of three borders – those of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, Alexander Arkhipov, Head of the Office for the State Border Delimitation and Demarcation of the State Border Committee of Belarus, told reporters.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

19/08/2013

UN: Belarus at the forefront of international initiatives to combat human trafficking

Belarus is at the forefront of international initiatives to combat trafficking in human beings, UN/UNDP resident coordinator Sanaka Samarasingha told media. He said that earlier the vast majority of trafficking crimes was related to sexual exploitation. Today this is mostly labour exploitation and the number of victims has been increasing.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

16/09/2013

EU names new head of Monitoring Mission in Georgia

The EU has named Toivo Klaar as the new head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia). The decision comes in the wake of a recent Council decision to extend the mission until 14 December 2014, with a EUR 26.65 million budget foreseen for this period.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

30/07/2013

Georgia to start new registration of refugees

The Government of Georgia plans to start compulsory recount of its refugees from this August. The internally displaced people, who fail to register anew, will have their social allowance suspended.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

17/09/2013

European official assures of EU's further support for Moldova

The Head of the European Union Delegation in Moldova Pirkka Tapiola said that the EU supports Moldova's integration aspirations and spoke out for the development of the ties in diverse sectors. The official stressed the importance to join efforts in order to complete the earlier started projects, as well as to launch new initiatives for Moldova's development.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

12/09/2013

EU provides funding for Moldova to meet association agreement prerequisites

Moldova will receive EUR 30 million from the European Union, in order to meet the prerequisites for signing the Association Agreement. The Cabinet members approved a draft law on the ratification of a financing agreement between the Moldovan government and the European Union.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

09/07/2013

EU's Ashton welcomes Moldova's progress toward European integration

The EU will support Moldova on the way of reform so that its citizens have a prosperous future, Catherine Ashton, who is on a working visit to Chisinau, said at a press conference following a meeting with Moldovan Prime Minister Iurie Leanca.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

01/07/2013

Amended visa facilitation agreement with Moldova enters into force

From July Moldovan citizens enjoy the benefits of a new visa facilitation agreement with the EU. The changes, including new, more transparent rules regarding the issuing of multiple-entry visas, will facilitate travelling for, amongst others, business people, representatives of the civil society, NGOs and journalists.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

12/08/2013

Majority of irregular migrants apprehended in Ukraine coming from post-Soviet countries

The migration situation in Ukraine in recent years has undergone some changes. In particular, there is an increase in illegal border crossing by citizens of the former Soviet Union, primarily Georgia, Russia and Moldova, the press service of the State Border Service of Ukraine reports.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

26/07/2013

Ukraine's refugee asylum system needs further improvement, says UN report

Despite significant progress in recent years, Ukraine's asylum system still requires fundamental improvements to increase fairness and protect people against forced return to threatening situations, the United Nations refugee agency said in a released report.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

08/07/2013

Ukraine to complete border demarcation with Moldova in 2013

Ukraine is due to complete state boundary demarcation with Moldova in 2013, declares the Annual National Program of Ukraine-NATO Cooperation for 2013, approved by President Viktor Yanukovich's decree No. 371 of July 5.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

01/07/2013

EU–Ukraine visa facilitation agreement comes into force

The amended EU–Ukraine visa facilitation agreement simplifies requirements for documents proving the purpose of the journey for a wider category of applicants, including representatives of civil society organizations, journalists and their technical crews, members of professions participating in international exhibitions, conferences and seminars.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

Highlights: EU Spotlight

27/09/2013

Eastern Partnership: Ashton and Füle meet Foreign Ministers on preparations for Vilnius

EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton and Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle together with Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius met with the Foreign Ministers of the six countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) in New York, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, to discuss the state of play before November's Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

06/08/2013

Using indicators to monitor immigrant integration and evaluate policies in the EU – a new report

The report "Using EU Indicators of Immigrant Integration" was prepared at the request of the European Commission by the European Services Network (ESN) and the Migration Policy Group (MPG) as a tool to monitor the integration of immigrants and evaluate integration policies.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)

17/07/2013

Non-EU citizens: new passport requirements for travelling to Europe

As of 19 July 2013 non-EU citizens traveling to Europe need a valid passport fulfilling new criteria.

For further information, please follow [this link](#)



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