



## Project News

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15/06/2014

### **Panel meeting on smuggling of human beings was held in Vilnius**

Nearly forty experts from the Eastern Neighbourhood and EU MS gathered to discuss the issue of smuggling of human beings at the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum meeting that took place in Vilnius on 10-11 June 2014. The two-day Panel meeting was co-organized by Lithuania and Belarus and brought together various representatives of government agencies, academia, civil society, and international organizations.

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

## Highlights: Country News

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29/04/2014

### **Migration rate in Armenia is comparable to global average**

According to a demographer Aram Vartikyan, the migration rate in Armenia is a little over 3% which is comparable to the global rate. He, however, added that there are some reasons for concern.

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

15/04/2014

### **Easing trade, transit and movement: new project launched to upgrade Armenia – Georgia border crossing**

An EU-funded project to upgrade a border crossing between Armenian and Georgia has been launched at a conference in Yerevan, aiming to facilitate trade, transit and enhanced movement of people across the border. With an overall budget of EUR 4.3 million, the project will introduce European standards of integrated border management (IBM) at the Bagratashen–Sadakhlo crossing point.

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



The Project is funded by the EU



The Project is implemented by the IOM



The Swedish Migration Board  
is a partner of the project



14/06/2014

## **Azerbaijan, EU sign protocol to agreement on cooperation and partnership**

Azerbaijan and the European Union have signed a protocol to the agreement on cooperation and partnership between Azerbaijan and the EU and its member states. The document was signed after an expanded meeting between Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev and the European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso

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

10/06/20

## **Azerbaijani–EU visa and readmission agreements to enter into force by autumn**

The visa facilitation agreement and the agreement on the readmission of persons residing without authorization in the EU countries' between Azerbaijan and the European Union will enter into force this September, Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Mammadgulyev announced.

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

27/05/2014

## **Peace urgently needed to resolve protracted displacement in Azerbaijan – UN expert**

The United Nations independent expert on the human rights of internally displaced persons ended his official visit to Azerbaijan with an urgent appeal for a peaceful settlement to restore the human rights of some 600,000 people who have been displaced for more than two decades. The Special Rapporteur also called upon humanitarian and development actors to act jointly and map out concerted actions aimed at ensuring durable solutions.

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

03/04/2014

## **Travel document for foreigners and stateless persons introduced in Azerbaijan**

Travel document for foreigners and stateless persons has been introduced by the President's decree. The travel document will be issued by the State Migration Service for crossing the country's borders by these persons, for entry and exit. Travel document is given in case any other document for crossing the border with Azerbaijan by these individuals cannot be granted in the country of origin. Travel document is the basis for the visa-free entry in Azerbaijan.

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

25/04/2014

## **Belarusian, Polish border services sign information sharing agreement**

The Chairman of the State Border Committee of Belarus Colonel-General Leonid Maltsev and Chief Commandant of the Border Service of Poland Brigadier General Dominik Tracz met in Brest to sign an agreement on sharing statistical and analytical information.



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

23/04/2014

## Georgia on top of EU visa rejection list

Citizens of Georgia rank first in the list of post-Soviet countries' residents getting visa rejections from the EU. For each country in EU's Eastern Partnership plus Russia, the Schengen visa rejection rate in 2013 was as follows: Georgia 12%, Armenia 11%, Moldova 4.8%, Azerbaijan 4.2%, Ukraine 1.9%, Russia 1% and Belarus 0.8%. These figures were presented in the latest annual report on visa liberalization by Liberal Academy Tbilisi.

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

09/04/2014

## EU states parliament speakers express support for Georgia's European integration

An association agreement with Georgia will be ratified with the EU member states without a problem, said the Georgian Parliament Speaker David Usupashvili. The heads of the parliaments of the EU countries expressed support for the European integration of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, he said at the joint briefing held in Vilnius on the results of the EU Parliaments Speakers Conference.

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

06/05/2014

## EU to provide EUR 60 million support package for Georgia and Moldova

The European Commission has announced a EUR 60 million support package for Georgia and Moldova. This package will help public institutions, citizens and the business community "to seize the benefits and opportunities of the association agreements with the EU," a press release said, "including the possibility of access to the EU market."

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

25/06/2014

## Moldovan government approves national action plan on implementing association agreement with EU

The Cabinet of Ministers of Moldova approved a national action plan on the implementation of the association agreement with the EU. It comprises a three-year period and includes the key priorities of cooperation, in order to ensure the political association and economic integration with the EU.

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

11/06/2014

## National plan on combating human trafficking for 2014–2016 approved in Moldova

The document approved by the Moldovan government identifies problems, objectives, as well as actions necessary for preventing and combating human trafficking. It also indicates the institutions in charge, partners,



financial sources, terms for activities implementation, as well as indicators of results monitoring. The recommendations of international experts and national reports were taken into account when drafting the document.

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

28/04/2014

### **Commissioner hails start of visa-free travel for Moldovan citizens**

Citizens of the Republic of Moldova can enjoy visa free travel to the Schengen zone, in a move that proves that “closer relations with the European Union do bring tangible benefits to all”, state EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström. Following a proposal from the European Commission, the decision to transfer Moldova to the list of the countries whose nationals are exempt from visa requirement came into effect. This means that the visa obligation for Moldovan citizens who hold a biometric passport and want to travel to the Schengen zone for a short stay is abolished.

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

03/06/2014

### **Study highlights key facts on migrant integration in Ukraine**

How do migrants in Ukraine live, where do they work, do they have equal access to healthcare and education and other public services on par with Ukrainian citizens, do they feel safe, and what are the needs for integration? The answers to these questions are essential to developing an effective migrant integration policy. In order to draft recommendations for Ukrainian policy makers, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as part of the EU-funded MIGRECO project (Strengthening Migration Management and Cooperation on Readmission in Eastern Europe), has conducted a comprehensive study on integration, hate crimes and discrimination against different categories of migrants.

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

27/06/2014

### **UN refugee agency seeing sharp increase in Ukrainian displacement**

In Ukraine, UNHCR is seeing a rise in displacement. As of late June, it estimated that 54,400 were internally displaced – 12,000 from Crimea and the rest from the Eastern regions.

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



## Highlights: EU Spotlight

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27/06/2014

### **Barroso hails historic signature of association agreements with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine – a landmark in the EaP**

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso has hailed as a historic day of signing the association agreements with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. He said the agreements were the most ambitious the EU had entered into so far, and marked a landmark in the EU's Eastern Partnership policy.

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

20/06/2014

### **UNHCR: over 50 million displaced worldwide**

The United Nations refugee agency said that at the end of last year, more than 50 million people have been forced from their homes worldwide, the highest figure of displaced since World War II.

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

30/05/2014

### **Frontex: number of migrants reaching Europe rose significantly**

There has been a significant rise in the numbers of migrants reaching Europe in recent months. The number of people attempting the dangerous sea crossing from North Africa to Italy has risen sharply, according to Frontex, the EU border agency. From January to April, 42,000 migrants were detected on these routes, with 25,650 of them crossing from Libya. Combined with seven other less busy routes, the total figure for this year is probably about 60,000.

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

26/05/2014

### **Schengen area 'health check' is out**

The Commission adopted its fifth Schengen 'health check', a biannual overview on the functioning of the Schengen area. It covers the period from November 2013 to April 2014 and assesses, in particular, the situation at the external Schengen borders, the application of Schengen rules and the visa issuance and security procedures.

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

29/04/2014

### **Towards a better implementation of the EU's common visa policy**



The Commission adopted two decisions aiming to harmonize implementation of the common visa policy. The first decision concerns an amendment of the 'Visa Code Handbook', which contains operational instructions on the practical application of the provisions of the Visa Code. The second decision concerns harmonization of the lists of supporting documents to a short stay visa application in Belarus, Cameroon, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates regardless of which Member State's consulate is in charge of examining the application.

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

03/04/2014

## **Clear and coherent legal rules for family members of migrants in the EU**

The European Communication follows up on a public consultation on family reunification of third-country nationals which urged the Commission to take further action towards achieving a more effective family reunification regime at the EU level. The Commission is presenting guidance for the correct and meaningful application of the Family Reunification Directive (2003/86/EC) across Member States while avoiding possible abuses.

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

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