

## NEW RULES FOR ISSUING SCHENGEN VISAS FOR STAYS IN EU COUNTRIES

### Introduction

On February 2, 2020, Regulation (EU) No. 2019/ 1155 has entered into force, amending the current Community Code on Visas, which constitutes the uniform legal framework applicable to all Member States of the Schengen Area concerning procedures and conditions for issuing Schengen visas.

These changes are applicable to all citizens of countries outside the European Union and the Schengen Area who intend to travel to a Member State for a short stay (not exceeding 90 days in a period of 180 days), whatever the reason for the visit.

### Main Changes

#### Extension of the deadlines for submitting the visa application

- as a general rule, the visa can now be applied for within 6 months of the start of the planned visit (previously, applications should be submitted no more than 3 months in advance);
- 9 months in advance, in the case of seafarers' requests (any person working on board a seagoing vessel or a vessel traveling in international inland waters);
- with less than 15 calendar days before the start of the planned visit, in urgent and duly justified individual cases.

#### Easier rules for those who can hold a multiple entry visa

For those who frequently, whether for professional or other reasons, travel to the countries of the Schengen Area, have their **entry facilitated by the issuance of a multiple entry visa with the period of validity varying between 1 and 5 years**, according to the history of visits.

Multiple-entry visa applicants are now required to submit a signed declaration, in which they declare to be aware of the need to have a **valid travel medical insurance** for the first stay and any subsequent visits.

#### Increase in the amount of fees to be paid

- €80.00 - standard rate (previously €60.00);
- €40.00 - children between 6 and 12 years old (previously €35.00);
- It remains free for children under 6 years old.

For applications submitted to an external service provider (in countries where there is no consular representation or representation by another Member State), the possibility of applying a service fee remains, which should not exceed half of the visa fee (€40.00). However, in exceptional circumstances, the external service provider may charge a higher service fee up to a maximum amount of €120.00.

### **Extension of the decision period**

The decision still needs to be taken within 15 calendar days from the date of filing an application.

However, in individual cases, namely when it is necessary to carry out a more in-depth examination of the application, the decision period can be extended up to a maximum of 45 days, whereas until today that maximum period was 30 days.

**PRIVATE CLIENTS DEPARTMENT**

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