

Newsflash

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Employment, Social Security and Immigration Law

Schengen Area expands with nine new EU-Member States

During a recent summit in Brussels the expansion of the Schengen area with 9 new Member States was approved.

As of 21st December 2007, 9 new Member States of the European Union are in full compliance with the Schengen rules. It concerns almost all the new Member States that joined the European Union in 2004: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Malta and Poland.

Following this expansion, the Schengen area now consists of Norway, Iceland and all EU-Member States except Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Practical consequences of this expansion include the abolition of border controls between the different countries, a uniform visa valid for the entire Schengen area, and the exemption to be in possession of a visa for third country nationals who have the right to reside in a single Schengen country for a period of up to 90 days in every other country belonging to the Schengen area.

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