

Muja Law brings you the following *Legal Update* regarding the amendments to Law on Foreigners in Albania.

Recently in the Official Journal No.32, dated 10.03.2020, has been published Law No. 13/2020, dated 12.02.2020, "On some additions and amendments in law no.108/2013 'On foreigners', as amended (herein referred to as "*the Law*").

The Law has been partially approximated with the Directive 2004/38/CE of the European Parliament and Council, dated 29 April 2004.

Some of the main amendments of the Law are as follows:

Electronic visa

'Visa' is the authorization in the form of a stamp visa on a valid travel document or *electronic visa, printed out of an electronic form*, issued by the responsible authorities, which allows the foreigner to enter, stay or transit in the Republic of Albania, in accordance with the legislation in force.

The 'C' type visa is the visa issued in the form of a stamp visa or printed out of electronic forms, which entitles its holder to enter and stay in the Republic of Albania up to 90 days, within 180 days, starting from the date of first entry.

The 'D' type visa is the visa issued at the form of a stamp visa or printed out of electronic forms for the foreign citizen seeking to stay in the Republic of Albania more than 90 days, within 180 days, and when, for these citizens is required a visa, in order to be equipped with a residence permit.

To apply for a visa, a foreign national should appear in person at the consulate or apply online in the electronic visa system.

Equal rights

With the new amendments, it is possible to enjoy rights equal to those of Albanian citizens in the field of employment and self-employment, for:

a) Nationals of European Union countries and the Schengen area and family members of nationals of one of the Member States of the European Union and the Schengen area that are not citizens of these countries and who are with legal residence in the Republic of Albania;

- b) Nationals of one of the Western Balkan countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia and Northern Macedonia;
- c) Foreigners employed in different sectors, in order to regulate the consequences and recovery from natural disaster.



Work permit

With the new amendments of the Law the foreigner has the right to be equipped with a work permit within 10 days of application, after all legal criteria have been fulfilled, compared to 30 days, as provided by the previous version of the law no.108/2013 '*On foreigners*', as amended.

Procedures and by-laws

The Council of Ministers is charged, that within 3 months after entry into force of this law, to issue by-laws to determine the criteria, procedures and documentation for the equipment with *electronic visa, and the electronic visa application format*.

Entry into force

This law enters into force 15 days after its publication in the Official Journal.



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The office is full-service and advises clients on all areas of civil, commercial and administrative law. With significant industry expertise, we strive to provide our clients with practical business driven advice that is clear and straight to the point, constantly up to date, not only with the frequent legislative changes in Albania, but also the developments of international legal practice and domestic case law. The office delivers services to clients in major industries, banks and financial institutions, as well as to companies engaged in insurance, construction, energy and utilities, entertainment and media, mining, oil and gas, professional services, real estate, technology, telecommunications, tourism, transport, infrastructure and consumer goods. In our law office, we also like to help our clients with intermediary services, as an alternative dispute resolution method to their problems.

While we have grown over the past 20 years and become recognized as one of Albania's leading law offices, we are grounded in the essence of "who" we are and "where" we started. We understand the importance of family, hard-work, and dedication.

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