



Visa Procedures to be Simplified

The Year of 2011 has officially been declared as the “The Year of Tourism” in Azerbaijan. For this reason, the Milli Majlis (Parliament), on 8 April 2011, passed a law intended to simplify the visa procedures. The changes will become effective on 1 June 2011.

Starting 1 June 2011, foreign visitors travelling to Azerbaijan will be able to apply electronically for a visa via designated tourism agencies. Tourism agents applying on behalf of foreigners will need to do so through the Azerbaijani embassies. In particular, the travelers will have to fill in the application form on the websites of the embassies or consulates, e-file those along with scanned copies of passports, photos, receipts on payment of state duties, and documents explaining the purpose of travel (e.g. confirmations of hotel bookings, airline tickets).

The standard period for processing of visa applications will be 15 working days. The duration of stay for single entry visas for tourists will be up to 30 days. Electronic visas will not be attached to the passports and will be issued as a separate document. Alternatively to electronic applications, applications for tourist visas may also be mailed to the embassies.

According to the law, the electronic application for a visa will be available for tourists only. Other foreigners visiting Azerbaijan must apply for a visa by visiting the Azerbaijani embassies or consulates or the Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including the Heydar Aliev International Airport) in the specified exceptional cases.

Shafag and Asiman PSA approved

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved indemnities and obligations stated in Appendix 5 of the Agreement on Joint Development and Production Sharing for Shafag Asiman field of the Azerbaijani Sector of the Caspian Sea. The agreement was signed on 7 October 2010 between SOCAR and BP Exploration Operating Company Ltd.

Draft Customs Code

On 18 April 2011, Milli Majlis discussed the new Customs Code in the second reading session. After the first reading, the draft Code was re-drafted. Currently, the draft includes 63 sections and 348 paragraphs. It is expected that the Code will serve several objectives including modernizing customs infrastructure, strengthening customs control, conforming the customs legislation to international regulatory standards, and facilitating the process of accession to the World Trade Organization.

Tax Treaty Negotiations with Malta and Morocco

Azerbaijan will start the first round of negotiations of tax treaties with Malta and Morocco on 3-5 May 2011. On 7-9 June 2011 Azerbaijan will have the second round of negotiations with Morocco.

Agreements, Protocols, Memorandums

Trade Protocols signed between Azerbaijan and Jordan

On 12 April 2011, Azerbaijan and Jordan signed several protocols on promoting cooperation in trade, economy and technology fields:

- Protocol on education
- Memorandum on mutual understanding in the area of Information and Communications Technology
- Memorandum on agriculture
- Memorandum on assisting in customs work
- Memorandum on cooperation in the sphere of air transport

Urmia Declaration between Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey

The foreign ministries of Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey approved the Urmia Declaration on 16 April, 2011 in Urmia, Iran. The Declaration addresses the economic development, tourism, cooperation in the area of science and culture, and combat against terrorism, human traffic, crimes, as well as cooperation with regional and international organizations, dispute resolutions within the bounds of territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of the three countries.

Memorandum and Agreements between Greece and Azerbaijan

AZPROMO (Azerbaijan Fund of Export and Investment Investigation) and HEPO (Greece Foreign Trade Organization) signed a Memorandum on mutual understanding during the 4th Azerbaijan-Greece business Forum on 6 April 2011.

In April 2011, several other agreements and memorandums were concluded between Azerbaijan and Greece.

- Memorandum on mutual understanding between SOCAR and DEPA (state gas company of Greece)
- Agreement on cooperation in the area of Environment protection
- Agreement on cooperation in the area of Marine Transportation
- Agreement on cooperation in the realm of science, education and culture for 2011-2013 years.

Protocol between Azerbaijan and Saudi Arabia

On 20 April 2011, Azerbaijan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia exchanged the ratification documents of the Agreement on investigation and mutual protection of investments between Azerbaijan and Saudi Arabia. The agreement was originally signed on 9 March 2005 and will be effective after 30 days from the date of the exchange of ratification documents.

Other declarations, agreements, and protocols

The official “Azerbaijan” newspaper published the following legal acts and normative documents on 24 April 2011: Td protocol were published in

- Joint Declaration signed by presidents of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan on 27 September 2010,
- Agreement on economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan for 2011-2015 years signed on 27 September 2010,
- Protocol, dated 27 September 2010, on amendments to the Agreement signed on 18 June 1997, between Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan on free visa regime,
- Joint Declaration signed by presidents of Azerbaijan and Latvia on 17 September 2010,
- Agreement between Azerbaijan and Latvia on prevention of force major events, signed on 17 January 2011,
- Agreement between Azerbaijan and Kuwait signed on 10 January 2011 regarding exemption from visa requirement of individuals having diplomatic and service/special passport,
- Joint Declaration between Azerbaijan and Ukraine signed on 28 October 2010,
- Memorandum on cooperation with regards to organization of natural gas transport to Ukraine Agreement on actions towards the development of cooperation in the area of oil transportation through Ukraine,
- Agreement on Development of Multimodal Transport TRACECA signed on 16 June 2009

- Joint Declaration on the South Gas Corridor signed on 13 January 2011.

PwC Events

PwC Academy Launch on 9 June 2011, Baku, Azerbaijan

PwC Azerbaijan would like to invite you to a half-day “**PwC Academy-Now in Azerbaijan!” Seminar** on 9 June 2011 at Park Inn hotel Dan Ulduzu conference hall from 9.30AM to 12.00PM.

The PwC Azerbaijan Academy Seminar will provide information on the leading edge learning solutions and consulting services in the training of your personnel, as well as explain how PwC can help you to increase the specialist knowledge in your organization and discuss individual enrollments and corporate training solutions.

For more information about PwC Azerbaijan Academy, please, visit web-site on this line: <http://www.pwc.com/az/en/services/corporate-training/corporate-training.jhtml>

For more information about “PwC Academy-Now in Azerbaijan!” Seminar and the Agenda details please, use this link: <http://www.pwc.com/az/en/events/pwc-academy-seminar-09-06-11.jhtml> .

To register at our workshop, please send an email at diana.mamedova@az.pwc.com with the full name/ position/ company/ **OR** call Diana Mamedova at PwC Azerbaijan at (+99412) 497 25 15 and provide the details above.

The presentation is free of charge and will run in two languages: Azerbaijani and English.

PwC International Human Resource Services Conference on 18-20 May in Frankfurt, Germany

After a period of cost cutting, hiring freezes and budget constraints, HR leaders are being challenged to mobilize talent to help businesses grow. But apparent shortages of the right people with the right skills in the right places, remains a major concern, causing many CEOs to demand a rethink of their entire people strategy. One thing seems clear, the talent race never finished and competition remains as intense as ever. How HR responds will determine whether the organization thrives (and even survives) in the next phase of global economic development and shift.

PwC' fifth annual European conference will explore the issues above in depth with a diverse range of plenary speakers and comprehensive workshop program.

To register your interest, please send an email to: HRS.conference.info@uk.pwc.com or contact PwC Azerbaijan office (Farida Akhundova).

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