

THE DRAFT NEW ALIEN ACT OF MAY 2013 USHERS IN TIGHTER RULES FOR ALL

What would the new Aliens Act change for the EU citizens?

Citizens of EU countries and several other states (e.g. Switzerland) may now reside in the Czech Republic freely for any length of time without being obliged to obtain a residence permit. Currently, EU citizens only have the obligation to notify the police of their place of residence.

The Ministry of the Interior, however, proposes to **undermine the status of EU citizens**:

- EU citizens would have to obtain a permit from the Ministry of the Interior to remain in the country for more than 3 months. For the first time in history, Slovak citizens would need to obtain a residence permit for stays in the Czech Republic.
- EU citizens without valid residence permit could be fined; moreover, if they refuse to leave the territory they could be placed in the detention centre for up to 18 months (even children under 15 years could be placed in the detention centre for up to 90 days).
- The residence permit of EU citizens (aged 15 and more) would depend on intelligence services: if intelligence services declare that they have classified information proving a foreigner to be dangerous, the residence of EU citizen would be prohibited without further explanation and without a chance to review this information.
- A submission of the proof of accommodation should be one of the conditions for obtaining residence permit. This requirement, however, is often problematic for foreigners to obtain because landlords are afraid to sign for foreigners with the respective authorities. Needless to say EU law forbids member states to require proof of accommodation from EU citizens.
- Any person providing accommodation for an EU citizen (e.g. a student) without notifying the police within 3 days could be fined up to CZK 50,000.
- Family members of EU citizens would be forbidden to submit applications by mail and would, therefore, have to queue in front of the offices of the Ministry of the Interior that are usually located only in regional cities.

Do you disagree? Support the declaration “We refuse the new Alien Act” by signing the online petition at <http://www.jednej.cz/petition.php?id=2351>

Contact: office@konsorcium-nno.cz

More information at www.migraceonline.cz/cz/temata/novy-cizinecky-zakon