

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

Changes for foreigners with permanent residence permit

There are approximately 220,000 foreigners, who have permanent residence permits in the Czech Republic, the majority of whom come from countries outside the EU, especially Ukraine, Vietnam and Russia. The permanent residence permit offers a quite assured residency status. It gives foreigners the right of unlimited access to the Czech labor market, business activity and all social benefits and privileges (including e.g. building saving accounts), moreover the right to travel within the Schengen Area and simplifies moving to another EU member state. A foreigner, whose declared income attains the subsistence wage and covers housing costs, is even allowed to bring his family to the territory. Under the current legislation, the permanent residence may be cancelled only in cases of serious violation of the law or if a foreigner stays outside the EU for more than a year.

The draft new Aliens Act **worsens the status of foreigners with the permanent resident permit**, including those who have obtained this permit in the past:

- The officers would gain the power to cancel the permanent resident permit if a foreigner would have any arrears or fines (which is by itself contrary to EU law), while the Ministry of the Interior would have online access to the databases of financial authorities and the Czech Social Security Administration.
- The possibility to repatriate family members to the Czech Republic and to live together would be reserved only to wealthy foreigners who could prove a net monthly income (without state benefits) of 15,400 CZK (for one family member), CZK 22,000 (for two family members), CZK 28,600 (for three family members and more); the majority of aliens would have to postpone starting a family until obtaining citizenship.
- The resident status of the spouses of Czech citizens would depend on the opinion of the intelligence agencies: if the intelligence services declare that they have classified information proving a foreigner to be dangerous, the residence of the spouse would be prohibited without further explanation, and without a chance to review this information or to initiate a legal challenge in court.

If you disagree with these changes and you think that State shall not make someone's life complicated only because he/she was born outside the Czech Republic, support the petition on <http://www.jednej.cz/petition.php?id=2351>.

Contact: office@konsorcium-nno.cz

For more information visit: www.migraceonline.cz/cz/temata/novy-cizinecky-zakon