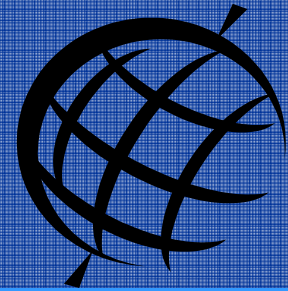


Global BRIEF



Your professional link to global immigration news

VOLUME I: No. 01

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JUNE 2005

Greece: Draft New Immigration Law

U.S.A.: New Guidebook for Immigrants

EUROPE

GREECE: The Greek government announced a new draft law on immigration in a bid to bring the outdated national law in line with the European Union's standard.

With this bill, the government hopes to establish an immigration policy that will protect both foreign nationals' rights as well as the country's interests.

In the Draft Law the government proposes changing the current two part process and simplifying it into one process. This would mean that the application for a work permit would be combined with a residence permit. This combined "residence" card will be issued by the secretary general of each district.

Additionally, legalization of a foreign national's immigration status in the country will fall under the districts' jurisdiction. This is also a change as historically the legalization of status is the responsibility of the prefectures.

By Jan. 1, 2006, special agencies will be created in the districts. A foreign national wishing to apply for a permit will request it from the district. The district will then process the request through its committee, which will decide whether or not to issue

the permit.

The foreign national will also be required to undergo a criminal background check which will be conducted by his or her relevant consulate or embassy.

See: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-04/20/content_2852152.htm

AMERICAS

U.S. A: The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service have launched a book called "Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants"

The guide is filled with practical tips on adjusting to life in the USA. It covers topics such as "Your rights and responsibilities" to "Paying Taxes" and "Education". It has a section describing the 911 system and "What to do in an Emergency".

Currently this is available online at the USCIS website for free.

See: http://uscis.gov/graphics/citizenship/imm_guide.htm

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