

PRESS

European Economic and Social Committee



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Entry and residence of non-EU nationals seeking work in the Union: European ESC calls for a temporary six-month entry and residence permit for the purpose of seeking employment

In a draft opinion* to be adopted **today, Wednesday, 16 January**, the ESC calls for a *new, second legal channel for third-country nationals to be introduced to provide temporary entry to a Member State in order to seek employment*: this is essential, especially where employees and migrant workers must know each other beforehand. For this reason the Committee proposes introducing a temporary six-month entry and residence permit for the purpose of seeking work.

In the Committee's view, the fact that applications for residence for the purpose of paid employment or self-employed economic activities may be submitted in the territory of the Member State concerned only if the applicant is legally present there, constitutes a condition which may *prevent existing illegal immigrants from regularising their situation*.

The Committee holds that third-country nationals applying for renewal of a "residence permit - worker" *should not be required to demonstrate that the job vacancy cannot be filled in the short term by citizens of the Union*.

The ESC calls for *permit renewal requirements* to be simplified as far as possible, and for the initial restriction to specific professional activities or fields of activities or to specific regions to be lifted.

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