



Association
of European
Businesses

Press release
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On 16 February 2015, the Association of European Businesses hosted a briefing by Russia's Konstantin Romodanovsky, Head of Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation.

The briefing covered practical issues regarding the implementation of new laws and future development of the migration legislation.

Chairman of the AEB Board, Philippe Pegorier, opened the event. AEB CEO, Frank Schauff, and Chairperson of the Migration Committee, Government Relations Director, Tax and Law, EY, Lyudmila Shiryayeva, moderated the briefing.

Over 150 representatives of European businesses participated in the event, promoting the interests of various industries and investors in the Russian Federation. AEB member companies addressed the issues related to the changes to migration law and its enforcement in 2015 to FMS experts in a Q&A session.

Matters discussed included procedures for the declaration of dual citizenship, HQS employment in representative offices of foreign companies, procedures for the notification of conclusion and termination of employment agreements with foreign citizens, new patent system for foreign employees from non-visa countries, and new Russian language, history and civic exams for foreign employees, which is mandatory for foreign employees from January 2015. There were a number of questions pertaining to the status of Ukrainian labour migrants and citizens on the territory of the Russian Federation.

In his speech, Konstantin Romodanovsky noted that the number of foreign citizens entering Russia remained almost unchanged and the recent decrease was due to the New Year holiday period. According to the Head of FMS, the service has registered a decrease of just 8% in the number of arriving foreign citizens. Furthermore, the number of migrants with legal right to work has increased by a third, while irregular workers who failed to contact FMS in due time have dropped by 11% – the data provided does not include Ukrainian citizens.

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Konstantin Romodanovsky highlighted positive dynamics in the patent system allowing foreign employees to scrap the multistage quota system.

The language, history and civic exams for foreign citizens, according to the FMS Head, require a differentiated approach based on the type of legal status requested. For those requesting temporary right to work, a document confirming basic knowledge needs be developed, while applications for residency permits or citizenship should be governed by a more complex examination on the specified subjects with a certificate.

Following this speech, Lev Yakobson, First Vice-Dean of Higher School of ECONOMICS (National Research University Higher School of Economics), presented a joint project between HSE and FMS studying Russian migration legislation enforcement practices by means of questionnaire. This document should create insight into the current situation of foreign specialists employment; determine the vectors for legislative development favourable to employers, the labour market and the economy as a whole. The questionnaire is available online at the HSE website: <http://gos.hse.ru/anketa2.php>

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