



## Individual tax alert Belgium

### Work permit waiting period for asylum seekers reduced

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In view of current global developments and the large influx of asylum seekers from war-torn countries, the Belgian Council of Ministers approved an amendment to Art. 17 of the 9 June 1999 Royal Decree concerning the employment of foreign employees. The amendment reduces the waiting period between an individual's request for asylum and access to wage-earning work from six to four months.

In practice, the waiting time reduction to four months means that once the waiting period has passed, an asylum seeker automatically becomes eligible to apply for a Belgian Work Permit Type C. Once in possession of said permit, the individual will be able to perform working activities for any employer without any prior eligibility requirements. Furthermore, as the subsequent Belgian residence permit application for an asylum seeker can take up to a year, individuals will also be able to begin their working activities whilst their Belgian residence permit applications are processed.

However, it must also be taken into account that, should the Commissioner-General for Refugees and Stateless Persons make an unfavourable decision with respect to an asylum claim and the subsequent application for a Belgian residence permit, the Work Permit Type C will automatically lose its validity.

Deloitte Belgium's immigration and social security services team will provide updates and is readily available to provide more detailed information.

#### Contacts

If you have any questions concerning the items in this alert, please contact your usual tax consultant at our Deloitte office in Belgium or:

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