

**Client Alert
14 November 2019**

**Measures announced by Government to improve
the immigration, asylum and integration policy in France**

Executive summary: Twenty measures to "improve the immigration, asylum and integration policy" in France were presented by the Government on 6 November 2019.

At the end of the interministerial committee on immigration and integration on November 6, 2019, the Prime Minister presented twenty measures to "improve [the] policy of immigration, asylum and integration" in France. Among these measures, those that could impact professional immigration are presented here.

Annual debate in Parliament on professional immigration objectives (or non-binding quotas), by sector of activity.

The announced objective is the creation of a "new statistical tool intended to reliably assess the reality of shortages on French labor market".

This tool will make it possible to define, each year, sector by sector, and in a territorialized way, a quantitative and qualitative assessment of skills needs. These quotas will be debated in Parliament and will aim for the list of skills in shortage to be revised annually. The inclusion of a job on this list waves job market tests when applying for a work permit. The current list has not been updated since 2008, and the OECD estimates that today only 15% of skills listed there are truly in shortage.

It is also planned for "these quotas [to be] notified to the consular and prefectural authorities, to guide the visas and residence permits issuance policy".

Simplification of procedures

A simplification of the work permit issuance procedures has been announced, notably with the implementation in the summer of 2020 of a fast track procedure for companies "enjoying recognition of the State under criteria related to their sector of activity and their organization (some companies justify a recurrent need for international mobility) and of course their practices respectful of labor law."

Talent Passport and French Tech visa categories are also mentioned as "potentially subject to improvement and simplification".

Dematerialisation

The dematerialization of applications for "talent passport" and work permits is announced to be expected by early 2021.

An improvement in the reception of applicants in Prefectures, with the implementation in a few months of "the first steps of a new service of online filing of residence permits applications". The government press release states that "recourse to the temporary residence document called « récépissé » will no longer be necessary in almost all situations, convocations in prefecture will be fewer and processing time will be reduced."

Deployment of this service will start with "student" residence permits in the spring of 2020, to become widespread by 2022.

Reduction of the amount of taxes on residence permits.

A proposition is made to adopt an amendment introducing a single basic fee, reduced from € 250 to € 200.

French language level for naturalization

It is contemplated to raise the level of French language requirements for access to French nationality, from the current oral B1 level to the oral and written B1 level.

We will keep you informed in the coming months of the implementation of the announced measures. For more information, please reach out to your usual contact, or email us at cabinet@karlwaheed.fr

Karl Waheed Avocats – all rights reserved