

**Client Alert**

**16 juin 2020**

**Gradual opening of the borders**

**In a joint press release, the Ministries of the Interior and Foreign Affairs announced the gradual opening of the borders in the days and weeks to come, according to the following procedures:**

- Internal borders to the European Union, Schengen and the European Economic Area (as well as Monaco, Vatican, San Marino): from 15 June. Travelers from these countries are no longer required to carry a derogatory international travel certificate to enter French territory, and are also exempt from a quarantine on their arrival in France - with exceptions (see below) ,
- France's external borders: from 1st July. This opening will be carried out in a progressive and differentiated manner according to the health situation of the various third countries, and in accordance with the procedures which will have been adopted at European level by then.

This opening of borders remains subject to certain restrictions:

- France will apply reciprocal restrictions similar to those which would be applicable in the country of origin. For example, the United Kingdom chose to set up a fourteen-day quarantine on 8 June for travellers from France. Thus, if travellers from the United Kingdom will remain invited to observe a fourteen-day quarantine upon arrival until further notice. Spain maintains until 21 June its traffic restrictions linked to COVID-19 as well as the requirement of fourteen-day quarantine for air passengers from European countries.
- The resumption of activity within the consular services will be gradual. There may be delays before applicants can apply for a visa. Consulates could give priority to applicants whose appointments have been cancelled due to confinement. The France Visa platform allowing online preparation of the long stay visa application form is not yet available.

We will be attentive to the reopening of the various consular posts and to the resumption of long-stay visa application deposits in the days and weeks to come, as well as the potential restrictions applicable depending on the country.

Karl Waheed Avocats - all rights reserved