



# Facts from Belgium

*Publication of the Embassy of Belgium, Washington, DC*

## MOVING TO BELGIUM FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES

### General Principles

- \* US citizens traveling to Belgium for business or other purposes do not need a visa if their stay in the 'Schengen area' in Europe **does not exceed** 90 days in a 6 month period.
- \* US citizens who intend to stay more than 90 days in a 6 month period in the Schengen area need a D visa (authorization to obtain a temporary residence permit). Applications must be submitted with the consular office in whose jurisdiction the applicant resides.
- \* All foreigners, except citizens from the European Union, Iceland, Monaco, Norway and Liechtenstein, who wish to work in Belgium have to apply for a work permit or professional card before applying for a D visa in the US. The D visa will allow them to obtain a residence permit in Belgium.
- \* Further consular information on the application for a D visa, a work permit or a professional card can be found at [www.diplobel.us](http://www.diplobel.us)

### For US/foreign investors, a simplified procedure could apply, in cooperation with the Regional and Federal economic and immigration authorities in Belgium:

- \* The aim of this procedure is to **issue a D visa to major investors for a maximum duration of 8 months**. This period can be extended after arriving in Belgium, on condition that in the meantime either a work permit or a professional card has been obtained.
- \* Investors will still need a work permit or a professional card before the start of their business activities in Belgium. However, the **procedure to obtain a work permit or a professional card can be started in Belgium** after the applicant has received a D visa in the US and has entered Belgium.

### How to Apply

- \* The investor has to present his business plan to the Regional investment representative in the US or in Belgium. The Regional investment office will, after examination, file an application for a special investment certificate to the Federal Service for Foreign Investments in Brussels.
- \* After a review of the business plan, the Federal Service for Foreign Investments will issue a certificate to the relevant consular office in the US.
- \* The consular office will contact the prospective investor and invite him/her to submit the required documents for the visa application. Further information on the application for the visa is available at [www.diplobel.us](http://www.diplobel.us)

### Further Information

- \* Further information on the Federal and Regional investment offices in Belgium and representatives abroad can be found on [www.invest.belgium.be](http://www.invest.belgium.be)

## Useful Addresses and Links

### Regional Investment Offices

#### **Flanders Foreign Investment Office (FFIO)**

Regentlaan 40, 1000 Brussels  
Phone + 32 2 227 53 11  
Fax + 32 2 227 53 10  
E-Mail: [Flanders@ffio.be](mailto:Flanders@ffio.be)  
[www.ffio.com](http://www.ffio.com)

#### **Office for Foreign Investors of Wallonia (OFI)**

Avenue Materne 115, 5100 Namur  
Phone + 32 81 33 28 50  
Fax + 32 81 33 28 69  
E-Mail: [investinwallonia@ofisa.be](mailto:investinwallonia@ofisa.be)  
[www.ofisa.be](http://www.ofisa.be)

#### **Brussels Enterprise Agency (BEA)**

Rue Gabrielle Petit 4 B12, 1080 Brussels  
Phone + 32 2 422 00 20  
Fax + 32 2 422 00 43  
E-Mail: [info@abe.irisnet.be](mailto:info@abe.irisnet.be)  
[www.bea.irisnet.be](http://www.bea.irisnet.be)

### Work Permits

#### **Ministry of the Flemish Community**

EWBL Department  
Administration for Employment  
Section Employment Policy  
Markiesstraat 1, 1000 Brussels  
Phone + 32 2 553 39 42  
Fax + 32 2 553 44 22  
E-Mail: [werkgelegenheid@vlaanderen.be](mailto:werkgelegenheid@vlaanderen.be)  
[www.vlaanderen.be/werk](http://www.vlaanderen.be/werk)

#### **Ministry of the Walloon Region**

Employment and Immigration Service  
Place de la Wallonie 1, Bat.2, 4th floor  
5100 Namur  
Phone + 32 81 33 31 11  
Fax + 32 81 33 43 22  
E-Mail: [seimm@mrw.wallonie.be](mailto:seimm@mrw.wallonie.be)  
<http://emploi.wallonie.be>

#### **Ministry of the Brussels Capital Region**

Economy and Employment Administration  
Employment Policy Service (Section Immigration)  
Boulevard du Jardin Botanique 20, 1035 Brussels  
Phone + 32 2 800 34 74  
Fax + 32 2 800 38 07  
E-mail: [expan.eco@mbhg.irisnet.be](mailto:expan.eco@mbhg.irisnet.be)  
[www.bruxelles.irisnet.be](http://www.bruxelles.irisnet.be)

### Federal Services

#### **Embassy of Belgium**

3330 Garfield Street NW, Washington DC 20008  
Phone (202) 625-5810  
Fax (202) 625-7567  
E-Mail: [bart.deelen@diplobel.org](mailto:bart.deelen@diplobel.org)  
[www.diplobel.us](http://www.diplobel.us)

#### **Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs**

Visa Service  
Karmelietenstraat 15, 1000 Brussels  
Phone + 32 2 501 81 11  
Fax + 32 2 501 38 88  
[www.diplobel.be/travel/en/visa.asp](http://www.diplobel.be/travel/en/visa.asp)

#### **Federal Service for Foreign Investments**

Generaal Lemanstraat 60, 1040 Brussels  
Phone + 32 2 206 58 64  
Fax + 32 2 514 03 89  
E-Mail: [invest.belgium@mineco.fgov.be](mailto:invest.belgium@mineco.fgov.be)  
[www.mineco.fgov.be](http://www.mineco.fgov.be)

### Professional Card

#### **Federal Public Service Economy, SME's, Self-Employed, Energy**

Bestuur voor KMO-beleid/ Administration de la Politique PME  
World Trade Center III  
Simon Bolivarlaan 30, 1000 Brussels  
Phone +32 2 208 51 40 or +32 2 208 51 48  
+32 2 208 51 04 or +32 2 208 51 33  
Fax +32 2 208 51 47  
E-Mail: [marie-jeanne.meuris@mineco.fgov.be](mailto:marie-jeanne.meuris@mineco.fgov.be)  
[veerle.bossuyt@mineco.fgov.be](mailto:veerle.bossuyt@mineco.fgov.be)  
[www.mineco.fgov.be](http://www.mineco.fgov.be)