



Mobility: Immigration alert

February 2024

Sweden

Implementation of changes to EU Blue Card regulations further delayed

Executive summary

The Swedish government recently announced that the implementation of the new EU Blue Card Directive (i.e., EU Directive 2021/1883), which was initially expected to go into effect in November 2023 and then [postponed](#), is now expected to be implemented no earlier than May 2024.

Background

In March 2023, the Swedish government published a [memorandum](#) regarding the new EU Directive, which suggested major changes to simplify the eligibility criteria and immigration processes related to EU Blue Cards. Recommendations included a reduced validity period of qualifying employment contracts held by applicants (from one year to six months) and removal of the requirement to obtain a new Blue Card if employment details of eligible holders change.

Key developments

The Swedish authorities are expected to release further details, including the new implementation date, in May 2024. The current rules governing the issuance of Blue Cards in Sweden will remain in place until the new EU Directive is implemented.

Impact on employers

While the amendments will offer employers greater options and flexibility when hiring third-country nationals, they may take into account the delay and update their internal policies as required to ensure compliance with current requirements.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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