

# Mobility: Immigration alert

May 2023



## Sweden

### Proposal to suspend applicants' "right to request to conclude cases" for Swedish work permits and citizenship

#### Executive summary

On 3 April 2023, the Swedish Migration Agency, the Swedish National Courts Administration, and the administrative courts in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmo submitted a proposal to the Swedish Ministry of Justice to temporarily suspend individuals' right to request that their work permit and citizenship applications be adjudicated within four weeks, if the applications have been under review for more than four months (for work permit applications) or six months (for citizenship applications).

#### Background

In 2018, the Swedish authorities made it possible for individuals to file a request with the Swedish Migration Agency to "conclude" (i.e., adjudicate) their cases (i.e., applications) for work permits or citizenship if their applications have been under review by the Migration Agency for six months or more. In situations where such a request is filed, the Agency must approve the request (and adjudicate the application), or reject the request on valid grounds, within four weeks of receipt of the request. In February 2020, following the incorporation of an EU guideline into Swedish law, work permit applicants were allowed to file requests to conclude their case if their applications were still under review after four months.

#### Key developments

If the proposal is adopted, applicants' right to request that their cases be concluded will be suspended for 18 months from the date the proposal enters into force. During these 18 months, applicants would not be able to file requests to have their cases concluded even after six months (for citizenship applications)

or four months (for work permit applications) from the date of filing of their applications.

The proposal is aimed at supporting the Migration Agency with processing pending cases amidst a heavy application backlog.

#### Impact on employers

The proposal, if adopted, would likely prolong the recruitment process for employers that hire third-country nationals whose cases are part of the backlog, and may impact these individuals' access to the Swedish labor market.

#### 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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**[ey.com](https://ey.com)**

### **Andreas Bråthe**

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +46 73 3972433  
Email: [andreas.brathe@se.ey.com](mailto:andreas.brathe@se.ey.com)

### **Elin Harrysson**

Senior Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +46 85 2058410  
Email: [elin.harrysson@se.ey.com](mailto:elin.harrysson@se.ey.com)

### **Josef Gyрмаi**

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +46 70 9139626  
Email: [josef.gyрмаi@se.ey.com](mailto:josef.gyрмаi@se.ey.com)

### **Thao Vu**

Staff - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +46 72 1602530  
Email: [thao.vu@se.ey.com](mailto:thao.vu@se.ey.com)