

Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2022



Portugal

Portuguese consular workers announce global strike as of 5 December 2022

Executive summary

The Union of Consular Workers, Diplomatic Missions and Central Services of the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (“the Union”) announced on 2 December 2022 that their negotiations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were not successful and therefore Union members working at Portuguese consular offices worldwide will go on strike starting on 5 December 2022. According to the notice delivered by the Union, the strike is expected to last until 12 January 2023.

Key developments

While the announcement from the Union indicates that the strike will impact all Portuguese consulates worldwide, EY has learned that consular workers in some locations do not plan to join the Union in the strike, or do not plan to participate in the strike until 12 January 2023.

Impact on employers

The delivery of consular services is expected to be significantly impacted in locations where Union members participate in the strike. Companies and individuals seeking to submit immigration and related applications to impacted Portuguese embassies and consulates may be prevented from filing their applications due to lack of consular staff, or they may encounter significant delays in consular processing. In addition, the processing of applications filed with Portuguese consulates on or before 2 December 2022 may also be significantly delayed.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments and provide further updates as more information becomes known. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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