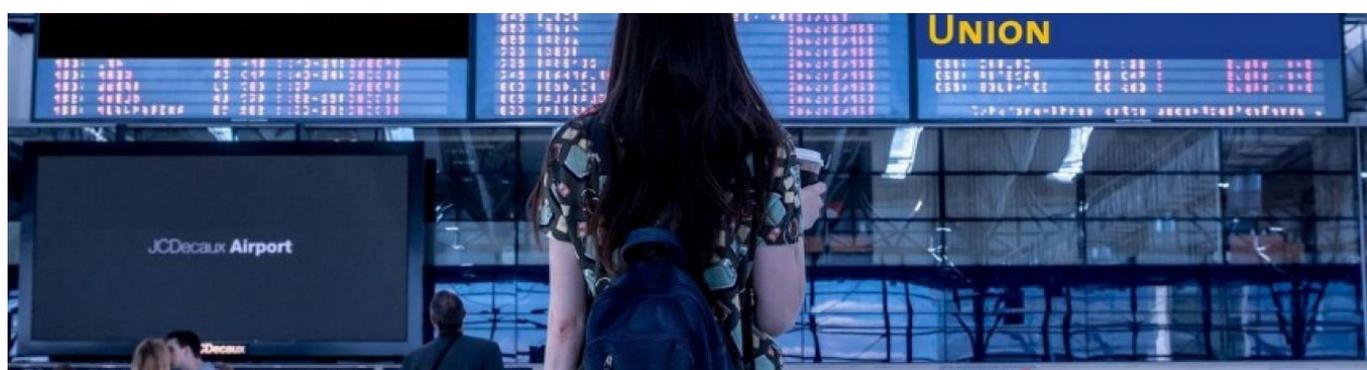


2019/03/08

# The Government has approved the proposal of the Ministry of the Interior on Brexit related legal amendments

BREXIT



The Government has approved the proposal of the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) on amendments to the Law concerning possible withdrawal process of the UK from the European Union (EU).

**Amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens seek primarily to regulate the legal status of the UK citizens and their family members residing in Lithuania (currently counting up to 400) and to ensure the most favourable conditions for them to remain and work in Lithuania. A transitional period of 9 months will be provided for changing the legal status of affected persons, if the United Kingdom leaves the EU without an agreement.**

“UK citizens who wish to continue living in Lithuania will have to submit an application to the Migration Department for a residence permit in Lithuania within 9 months. For these UK citizens and their family members, temporary or permanent residence permits will be issued under the most favourable conditions, without any additional requirements or fees.” - says Minister of the Interior Eimutis Misiūnas.

To those UK citizens who already have the right to permanent residence in Lithuania permanent residence permits will be issued without an examining their knowledge of the state language or the fundamentals of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania.

**No state fee for the examination of the application and the formalization of the residence permit in Lithuania will be charged. Documents currently held by UK citizens must be replaced by residence permits until 1st January 2020.**

Approaching the 29 March of this year, when the United Kingdom is expected to leave the EU, issues related to the UK's withdrawal from the EU are decided by each EU Member State individually.

However, all EU Member States are called upon to take measures to ensure that UK citizens are considered as remaining residents of the Member State in which they already reside and work. Taking into account these recommendations of the European Commission and a number of Lithuanian citizens living in the United Kingdom, Lithuania seeks the most favourable mutual relations between the countries.

Amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens approved by the Government and other draft legislation related to the Brexit will still have to be approved by the Seimas at the Spring Session.

Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania