



*June 1, 2009*

## **Important Information on the AEB One Window Approach on Migration Issues** *Information Newsletter*

*Dear AEB members!*

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the AEB introduced the One Window Approach on Migration Issues, which provides assistance in registering applications to hire foreign workforce, issuing work permits and visa invitations for hire of foreign employees of AEB member companies.

According to the suggestion made by Prime Minister of the Russian Federation V. V. Putin in December 2008, the foreign workforce quota this year was reduced by approximately 50%. We did not expect that members of our Association, best representatives of European businesses on the Russian market would be affected. We have already obtained some preliminary statistics of refusals concerning applications to attract and employ foreign workers and applications made by foreign citizens seeking employment within the Russian Federation; refusals were made by the Moscow City Employment Service Bureau as well. The Bureau cited the following reasons:

*The register of addressees of state services in the sphere of employment has no data on workplaces/vacancies for which the employer or customer of operations (services) applied for, as seen in the list of vacant/new jobs that may be allocated to foreign workers this year.*

Out of 40 companies (approximately 150 persons), who turned to AEB for assistance in registering foreign workforce applications, 9 companies (23 persons) were turned down since March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, (approximately 20%). These statistics cause great concern.

All possible official reasons for such refusals are available at [www.labor.ru](http://www.labor.ru).

Besides, there have been other reasons for refusing applications at the inter-regional center of workforce exchange and the territorial center of employment services. It is important that the application shows precisely the same data on foreign workers as in the document package submitted for foreign workforce registration purposes (citizenship, position according to the list of professions, number of employees, employment period).

We also recommend entering your information into the database at [www.migrakvota.gov.ru](http://www.migrakvota.gov.ru), after the preliminary registration. In case of any changes, be prepared to submit in due time a letter of addenda and a new application to the Interregional Center of Workforce Exchange and the Territorial Center Of

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Employment Services, and confirm in writing or orally your intention to continue employing a certain number of foreign workers on a monthly basis. Most importantly, according to the legislation on migration you must first offer these jobs to Russian candidates through the Center for Employment, and find sound reasons for your choice in favor of the foreign workers you want to hire. Please, always remember that official bodies check all the documents very carefully.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Rossiyskaya Gazeta carried an official publication of Order No. 132H dated March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009, of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation; the new law entered into force within ten days. The new law contains a list of 17 trades (positions, qualifications) of foreign citizens, who are duly qualified professionals working in accordance with their qualification, to whom the 2009 quota does not apply.

We will continue bringing you timely updates on changes in migration policy in the Russian Federation.

Sincerely,

Frank Schauff  
General Director  
Association of European Business

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