

BLUE CARD DIRECTIVE

Background information:

Directive of 25 May 2009

- **Official name:** Council [directive 2009/50/EC](#) on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment.
- **Objective of the directive.** To improve the EU's ability to attract highly qualified workers from third countries. The aim is not only to enhance competitiveness within the context of the Lisbon strategy, but also to limit brain drain. It is designed to:
 - facilitate the admission of these persons by harmonising entry and residence conditions throughout the EU;
 - simplify admission procedures;
 - improve the legal status of those already in the EU.The directive applies to highly qualified third-country nationals seeking to be admitted to the territory of a Member State for more than three months for the purpose of employment, as well as to their family members. [Summary](#).
- **Transposition deadline:** 19 June 2011
- **Transposition into Belgian law:** [Law of 15 May 2012](#) and executive orders of [15 August 2012](#), [17 July 2012](#), and [3 August 2012](#).

More information:

- Background information on the website of the [European Commission](#).