

Headlines

- Abolition of Visas & Economic Cooperation
- Amendment to Work Permits of Foreigners
- New Tourism Centers in Izmir Alacati Announced
- New Fee Schedule for International Arbitration
- Right of Way in Electronic Communication
- Turkish - Italian University to be Established
- Agreement with Singapore

Abolition of Visas & Economic Cooperation

- Visa Exemption between the Citizens of Turkey and Lebanon

As part of good neighborhood strategies, and in consistency with the new Turkish government's Middle East policies, Turkey has signed a mutual visa exemption agreement with Lebanon.

Council of Ministers' ratification (2010/84) of the "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Lebanon on the Mutual Abolition of Visas" was published in the Official Journal dated 10.02.2010 and numbered 27489.

The two countries' citizens can freely visit each other and stay up to 90 days without any visa requirement. This will also improve the economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

- Visa Exemption between the Citizens of Turkey and Libya

Turkey has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the Mutual Abolition of Visas. The ratification of the Council of Ministers (2010/58) was published in the Official Journal dated 24.02.2010 and numbered 27503.

Turkish construction companies are winning big contracts in Libya and it is said that Turkey will invest 35 billion euros in Libya's infrastructure over the next 10 years. Considering the proposed amount of investment, abolition of visas between the two countries was an expected development if not mandatory.

- Economic Cooperation Agreement with Serbia

Turkey has signed an eco-

economic cooperation agreement with Serbia as part of the good neighborhood strategies. Turkey has recently developed good relations with its neighbors including the Balkan States.

Agreement between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Serbia on Economic Cooperation was ratified by the Council of Ministers (2010/44) on 21.1.2010 and published in the Official Journal dated 13.02.2010 and numbered 27492.



Turkish government is signing bilateral agreements with its neighbors abolishing the visa requirement for its citizens.

Amendment to Work Permits of Foreigners

The Law No. 4817 on Work Permits of Foreigners was amended by the Law No. 5951 published in the Official Journal dated 05.02.2010 and numbered 27484.

Pursuant to the amended Article 12 of the Law, the Ministry of Labor will finalize all duly made applications within 30 days, provided that all documents are complete and accurate.

Due to the bureaucracy, the applications could take several months to be finalized which in most cases harm businesses. The amendment therefore obliges the Ministry to finalize all duly made applications within 30 days.

Notwithstanding the relevant provisions, foreigners working within the scope of professional services such as engineering, architecture etc. can be granted a preliminary per-

mit up to one year until the procedure for their academic and professional sufficiency is completed.

In consistency with the Application Regulation amended in January 2010, work permit applications can now be electronically made.

Other Important Developments in February 2010

- **New Tourism Centers Announced by the Council of Ministers**

In the Official Journal dated 06.02.2010 and Numbered 27485; Council of Ministers has announced (Decision Nr. 2009/15764) the following areas as tourism centers in accordance with Article 3 of the Tourism Incentive Law numbered 2634 and the Regulation concerning the Determination and Announcement of Culture and Tourism Protection and Development Areas and Tourism Centers.

- Izmir Alacati Cakabey Tourism Center
- Izmir Alacati Yumru Koyu Tourism Center
- Izmir Alacati Guvercinlik Tourism Center
- Izmir Alacati Sifne Tourism Center

Tourism Incentive Law nr. 2634 provides for certain benefits, incentives, exemptions and incentives for tourism areas and centers.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to get further information on the benefits and incentives available to investors in tourism centers.

- **Communiqué on International Arbitration Fee Schedule**

Ministry of Justice has published a Communiqué on International Arbitration Fee Schedule in the Official Journal dated 23.02.2010 and numbered 27502.

The terms of the Communiqué will be applicable in the event that the parties and the arbitrator or the board of arbitrators cannot agree on the fee or there is no specific provision in the arbitration agreement regarding the determination of the fee; or there is no reference to any international rule or institutional arbitration rules. The fee schedule will be effective as of March 15, 2010.

- **Right of Way in Electronic Communication**

Regulation Concerning Right of Way with respect to the Implementation of Electronic Communication was published in the Official Journal dated February 3, 2010 and numbered 27482 by the Information and Communications Technologies Authority.

The Regulation provides certain provisions in order to determine the principles with respect to the right of way required to establish electronic communication networks, infrastructure and equipments.

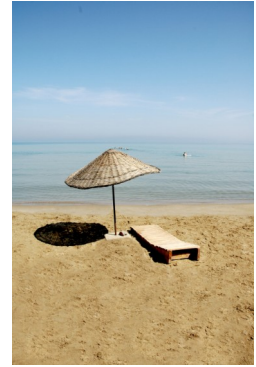
Pursuant to the Regulation, in principle, parties have freedom of contract regarding the right of way. However Article 9 provides that, in the event the parties cannot agree, courts will solve the disputes arising from right of way.

- **Turkish-Italian University to be Established**

International Agreement between the Republic of Turkey and the Italian Republic regarding the Establishment of a Turkish-Italian University was ratified by the Council of Ministers (2010/48) in accordance with the ratifying Law nr. 5931 and published in the Official Journal dated 07.02.2010 and numbered 27486.

- **Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments between Turkey and Singapore**

Council of Ministers ratified (2010/21) the Agreement between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Singapore concerning Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments. The Agreement was published in the Official Journal dated 19.02.2010 and numbered 27498.



New tourism centers in Alacati, Izmir are announced by the Council of Ministers.

Several regulations have been drafted since the Electronic Communication Law No. 5809 was enacted on 05.11.2008.



A Turkish-Italian University is going to be established in Turkey.

Bestekar Sokak 86/12
Kavaklıdere Ankara
06680 Turkey
Phone: +90-312-467-3421
Fax: +90-312-467-3331
E-mail: info@aydaslimankurman.av.tr

**Aydas Liman Kurman
Attorneys at Law**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
**AYDAŞ
LİMAN
KURMAN**

Aydas Liman Kurman Attorneys at Law is a law firm established in Ankara aiming to provide high quality legal services to its local and international clientele.

You can refer to our website in order to learn more about our practices.

You can contact Mr. Altan Liman at altan@aydaslimankurman.av.tr to obtain further information on the topics covered in this newsletter and on other legal issues.

<http://www.aydaslimankurman.av.tr>

