



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON THE REVIEW OF THE “EU BLUE CARD”

The 2009 “EU Blue Card” Directive intended to facilitate the admission and mobility of highly qualified third-country national workers, and their family members, by harmonising entry and residence conditions throughout the EU and by providing for a set of rights. It aimed at making the EU more competitive in attracting highly qualified workers from around the world, thereby contributing to addressing labour and skills shortages within the EU labour market, and strengthening the EU’s competitiveness and economic growth. However, the 2009 Directive failed to achieve these objectives; restrictive admission conditions and very limited facilitation for intra-EU mobility, combined with many different sets of parallel rules, conditions and procedures for admitting the same category of highly skilled workers which apply across EU Member States, have limited the EU Blue Card's attractiveness and usage.

The proposal for a Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment, which replaces the existing EU Blue Card Directive, aims to improve the EU’s ability to attract and retain highly skilled third-country nationals, as well as to enhance their mobility and circulation between jobs in different Member States.