

## Update on Swiss immigration

### Your PwC contacts

#### **Mirela Stoia**

Director Immigration  
Services  
+41 58 792 91 16  
mirela.stoia@ch.pwc.com  
PwC Geneva

#### **Martin Zeier**

Director  
+41 58 792 52 74  
martin.zeier@ch.pwc.com  
PwC Basel

### **Increase of Non-EU quota permits for 2017**

On 12 October 2016, the Swiss government announced an increase in the work permit quotas for Non-EU nationals for the coming year.

This means that Swiss immigration authorities will be able to release 500 additional B permits and 500 additional L permits compared with this year. Hence, Swiss companies can recruit a higher number of qualified specialists from non-EU countries in 2017.

#### **What does this mean?**

This year's quota is not impacted by this decision and according to the announcement made by the government, as of 6 October 2016, there are 406 B and 661 L permits left for the remainder of the calendar year.

From 1 January to 31 December 2017, the total number of B permits available for hiring non-EU nationals will be 3,000 and the total number of L permits will be 4,500. The additional 1,000 quota permits will be allocated to the 'federal reserve' and not to the cantons. This means that cantons may request additional quotas from the federal authority, if required. The Swiss government believes the allocation of these 1,000 additional quotas to the federal reserve will make the system more flexible and it will be easier to meet the different economic needs of each canton.

#### **Background: The quota system for Non-EU nationals in brief**

Switzerland applies a quota system for work permits issued to Non-EU nationals and to EU as-signees (i.e. EU nationals employed abroad and assigned to Switzerland by their foreign employer) for more than four months.

Non-EU work-permit quotas for 2016:

- Short term L-type permits: 4,000
- Long term B-type permits: 2,500

The Non-EU permit quotas are allocated annually and divided in half between the cantons and the federal authority. Once the cantonal quotas are exhausted, the cantons may reach out to other cantons or to the federal authority to request additional quotas.

Each canton is allocated a set number of permits at the beginning of each calendar year. In 2016, the canton of Geneva has quotas of 133 L permits and 83 B permits; Zurich 403 L and 252 B; Zug 36 L and 23 B; Vaud 158 L and 98 B; Basel-Stadt 84 L and 52 B; and Neuchatel 45 L and 28 B, etc.