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## Law 4332

*Amendment of the provisions of the Greek Nationality Code – Amendment of Law 4521/2014 to transpose to Greek law Directive 2011/98/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council “on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State” and Directive 2014/36/EU “on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers” and other provisions.*

### THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

We hereby promulgate the following law passed by the Parliament:

#### PART I AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS OF THE GREEK NATIONALITY CODE

##### Article 1 Replacement of Article 1A of the Greek Nationality Code

Article 1A of the Greek Nationality Code shall be replaced to read as follows:

“Article 1A

By declaration and application, by birth and school attendance in Greece

1. A child of foreigner parents born in Greece acquires the right to Greek

nationality under the following preconditions:

- a) He/she has enrolled in the first grade of elementary school and is still attending Greek school at the time the application-declaration of paragraph 2 is being lodged.

- b) One of their parents has been living legally and continuously for at least five (5) years in the country before the child was born.

In case the child was born before this five year period had been completed, then the necessary period of legal and continuous residence of the parents is extended to ten (10) years.

- c) His/her parents are legal residents and at least one of them holds one of the following residence permits at the time of the application-declaration of paragraph 4:

- i) Residence permit of indefinite duration or ten (10) year permit in accordance with the provisions of the Presidential Decree 150/2006 (GG A160) or long term resident permit in accordance with Article 40, paragraph 7 of Law 3731/2008 (GG A 26) or residence permit provided for in Article 89 of Law 4251/2014 (GG A80) as this is in force;

- ii) Residence permit of indefinite or of ten (10) year duration in accordance with the provisions of Law 2910/2001 (GG A 91), paragraph 2, Article 91 of Law 3386/2005 (GG A 212), paragraph 1, Article 39 of Law 3731/2008 (GG A 263) and Article 138 of Law 4251/2014 (GG A 80) as these are in force;

- iii) A document certifying the permanent residence of an EU citizen in accordance with the provisions of

Presidential Decree 106/2007 (GG A 135);

iv) A residence authorization for refugees and persons under subsidiary protection in accordance with the provisions of Presidential Decrees 61/1999 (GG A 63), 96/2008 (GG A 152), 114/2010 (GG A 195) and 113/2013 (GG A 146) as these are in force, or a residence authorization for stateless persons;

v) Special identity card for foreign nationals of Greek descent (EDTO) accompanied by a valid uniform residence permit (ADET), or other residence permit for aliens of Greek descent;

vi) A second generation residence permit in accordance with Article 108, Law 4251/2014 (GG A80);

vii) A permanent residence permit for a family member or for an EU citizen.

The residence permits mentioned above may be amended, replaced or removed with a Decision by the Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, and new ones may be added.

2.a. In order to acquire the Greek citizenship by virtue of paragraph 1 of this Article, the parents of the child submit a joint declaration-application.

This declaration-application to acquire Greek citizenship as well as all relevant supporting documents are submitted to the competent authority of the Decentralized Administration under the territorial jurisdiction of which lies the municipality where the applicants reside.

b. In case of a child either of a single parent family or of a parent who is entitled to international protection (recognized refugee, person with the status of subsidiary protection or statelessness) this declaration-application of the previous paragraph of this Article, is submitted by the other parent or the person who has been entrusted with the custody of the minor, provided he/she meets all other

relevant prerequisites. In the case of unaccompanied minors, this declaration-application is lodged by the guardian or the legal representative of the minor.

3. Within six (6) months after this declaration-application of paragraph 2 of this Article has been lodged, the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration issues a decision, the summary of which is published in the Government Gazette, to mandate the local municipality to enroll the minor in its municipality rolls. Greek citizenship is acquired upon the publication of this summary.

4. Forms, supporting documents receipts or other documents allowing for the temporary stay of their bearer until his/her application is examined by the competent administrative or judicial authority or the completion of administrative procedure, do not constitute legal residence authorizations.

5. The identity information of the minor non-national, as well as the existence of a family relation with the minor for whom a declaration-application for the acquisition of Greek citizenship is being lodged by his/her parents, are verified by the domestic birth certificate and the relative supporting documents verifying this family relation.

The list of necessary supporting documents for the declaration-application for Greek citizenship may be amended, other documents may be added or removed by a decision of the Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction.

6. In order to lodge a declaration-application for the acquisition of Greek citizenship as provided herein, a fee of one hundred euro (100€) shall be deposited.

#### **Article 1A**

#### **Insertion of Article 1B in the Greek Citizenship Code**

Article 1B shall be added following Article 1A of the Greek Citizenship Code, to read as follows:

«Article 1B

By declaration and application, due to school attendance in Greece

1. A non-national minor legally residing in Greece establishes the right to acquire the Greek citizenship due to school attendance in Greece, provided he/she has successfully completed attendance of either nine (9) grades of elementary and secondary education or six (6) grades of secondary education. Attendance of nursery schools does not count against this period. The successful completion of the required attendance is proven by the relevant certification of the competent authority.
2. A non-national legally residing in Greece and graduate of a Greek higher education or technical higher education institution establishes the right to acquire the Greek citizenship provided he/she holds a school-leaving certificate of a Greek high school in Greece. The declaration-application of paragraph 3 is lodged within a time-limit of three (3) years following graduation from the higher education institution.
3. In order to acquire the Greek citizenship by virtue of paragraph 1 and 2 of this Article, a relative declaration-application is lodged by the non-national himself/herself. The declaration-application and the necessary supporting documents are lodged at the competent authority of the Decentralized Administration under the territorial jurisdiction of which lies the municipality where the applicants reside.
4. (a) The Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration, within six (6) months after the declaration-application has been lodged by virtue of paragraph 1 of this Article, issues a

decision, a summary of which is being published in the Government Gazette, to mandate the local municipality to enroll the minor non national in its municipal roll. Greek citizenship is acquired upon the publication of this summary.

(b). The Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration, within one (1) year after the declaration-application has been lodged by virtue of the provision of paragraph 2 of this Article, issues a decision, a summary of which is published in the Government Gazette, to mandate the local municipality to enroll the adult non-national in its municipal roll. Greek citizenship is acquired upon the publication of this summary.

The application is rejected on penal impediment in accordance with indent (b), paragraph 1 of Article 5 or on grounds of public or national security in accordance with Article 5B. Investigating the existence of negative preconditions mentioned in the previous subparagraph is carried out with the relative application of the procedure provided for in paragraph 2, Article 7 and within a time limit of six (6) months. This procedure and time-limits are suspended in accordance with the provision of paragraph 4, Article 31.

5. (a) In case the declaration-application to acquire the Greek citizenship, provided for by virtue of the provision of paragraph 1 of this Article, has not been lodged by the minor non-national, the non-national who is still a legal resident in Greece lodges the declaration-application to the competent service of the Decentralized Administration under the territorial jurisdiction of which lies the municipality where the applicants resides, until they reach the age of 21.

(b) In case the entitlement to citizenship acquisition due to school attendance, by virtue of the provision of paragraph 2 of this Article, is accumulated after the child has

reached the age of majority and until the age of 23, the adult non-national who is still a legal resident in Greece, lodges their declaration-application to the competent service of the Decentralized Administration under the territorial jurisdiction of which lies the municipality where the applicants reside, within the time-limit of three (3) years following completion of nine (9) grades of the Greek educational system or six (6) grades of the secondary education.

(c) In the cases above, the procedure of the provision of paragraph 4(b) of this Article applies accordingly. In these cases also Greek citizenship is acquired upon the publication of the summary of the decision of the Decentralized Administration Coordinator in the Government Gazette.

6. The child of a non-national who has acquired the Greek citizenship by virtue of the provisions of this Article is considered a Greek citizen without any further administrative formality, if at the time his/her parent acquired his/her Greek citizenship, he/she was a minor and unmarried.
7. For the purposes of this Article, forms, receipts for supporting documents or other documents allowing the temporary residence of their holder until their application is considered by the competent administrative or judicial authority or the completion of the pending administrative procedure, do not constitute authorizations for legal residence.
8. Identity information of the adult or minor non-national applicant is established by a domestic birth certificate or any other equivalent document issued by the competent authorities of their country of origin. In case the non-national is under international protection as a refugee or under the subsidiary protection status or of statelessness, and cannot produce a birth certificate, the recognition of the refugee status, the international

protection status or the domestic certificate of stateless person respectively, suffice for this purpose.

The list of necessary supporting documents for the declaration-application for Greek citizenship of this Article may be amended, other documents may be added or removed by a decision of the Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction.

9. The applicant may accompany their declaration-declaration with a statutory declaration so as to localize in Greek their name and surname details.
10. In order to lodge the application-declaration provided for in this Article, for the acquisition of the Greek citizenship, a fee of one hundred euro (100€) should be paid.

## **Article 2**

### **Transitional provisions**

1. Children of foreign nationals who were born in Greece and are minors at the time this law is published, fall under the provisions of paragraph 1, Article 1A of the Code of Greek Citizenship as this is amended by Article 1 of this Law and under the provisions therein.
2. Applications for the acquisition of Greek citizenship by virtue of paragraph 1 to 5, Article 1A of the Greek Citizenship Code, as this was added to paragraph 2, Article 1 of Law 3838/2010 and was in force until this Law was published, and Article 24 of Law 3838/2010, which are pending either at the competent services of Decentralized Administrations or at the competent services of Municipalities, are examined under the terms of Article 1A of the Greek Citizenship Code, as this is amended by Article 1 of this Law and under the conditions of Article 1B of the Greek Citizenship Code, as this shall be added to Article 1A of this Law, with the exception of the payment of the fee provided for.

As to the aforementioned pending applications, considered on a priority

basis, the necessary in each case preconditions for the acquisition of Greek citizenship, by virtue of Article 1A of the Greek Citizenship Code, as this is amended by Article 1 of this Law and Article 1B of the Greek Citizenship Code, as this shall be added with Article 1A of this Law, should be satisfied at the time this is published.

3. Foreign nationals who, at the time this enters into force, satisfy the preconditions of paragraph 1, 2 and 5B, Article 1B of the Greek Citizenship Code and have already reached the age of maturity, are granted a time limit of three (3) years after this enters into force to lodge the declaration-application provided for in these provisions.

The child of a foreign national who has acquired the Greek citizenship by virtue of the provisions of Article 1 and 24 of Law 3838/2010, is considered a Greek citizen without any further administrative formality, if at the time his/her parent acquired his/her Greek citizenship, he/she was a minor and unmarried.

4. Upon publication of this Law, Article 24 of Law 3838/2010 is hereby repealed.

### **Article 3**

#### **Replacement of Article 19 of the Greek Citizenship Code**

Article 19 of the Greek Citizenship Code (GCC) as replaced by Article 9 of Law 3838/2010, shall be replaced to read as follows:

“IV. Loss of Greek citizenship acquired by children of foreign nationals by declaration or their parents’ naturalization.

#### **Article 19**

1. The child of a foreign national, who became a Greek citizen while a minor, may lose his/her citizenship by lodging a relevant declaration and application at the municipality in which they are

enrolled, or in case of residence abroad, in the Greek consular authority at the place of residence, within one (1) year following their reaching the age of majority. A copy of the declaration and application should be forwarded to the competent department of the Decentralized Administration concerned.

2. Within one (1) month, the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration issues a decision accepting the application for loss of citizenship. A summary of this decision is published in the Government Gazette.
3. The said application is not accepted in case the applicant is thus rendered stateless.”

### **Article 4**

#### **Setting-up of Committee to draft the Greek Citizenship Code**

1. A Committee is set up at the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction to draft the Greek Citizenship Code, and it is consisted of:
  - a) The Secretary General for Population and Social Cohesion as Chair, and
  - b) The Legal Counselor of the Ministry,
  - c) A Professor Emeritus of Private International Law,
  - d) The Head of the General Directorate of Citizenship and Migration Policy,
  - e) The Head of the Department of Citizenship,
  - f) A member appointed by the Greek Ombudsman,
  - g) A member indicated by the National Commission for Human Rights,
  - h) A Head of the Directorate of Civil Status of a Decentralized Administration, as ordinary members.

Two employees of the Department of Citizenship (higher education graduates) are appointed as administrative support to the Committee workings.

2. The Citizenship Code draft to be prepared by this Committee will be submitted to the Hellenic Parliament to

be ratified pursuant to Article 76, paragraph 6 of the Constitution.

3. This Committee is set up by a decision of the Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction. The same decision sets also the time limit within which this task should be concluded, the special rapporteurs and the secretariat members as well as issues pertaining to the operation, logistics and administrative support. The transport cost for members of the Committee who do not reside in Athens shall be covered by the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction.

## **PART II TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVES 2011/98/EU AND 2014/36/EU**

### **Article 5**

#### **Objective of Articles 6 and 7 of this Law**

1. The objective of Article 6 of this Law is to transpose to Greek law Directive 2011/98/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 (EEL 343 of 23 December 2011).
2. The objective of Article 7 of this Law is to transpose to Greek law Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 (EEL 94 of 28 March 2014).

### **Article 6**

#### **Amendment of the provisions of Law 4251/2014 for the transposition of Directive 2011/98/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 to Greek law.**

1. After indent 12, paragraph 1, Article 1 of Law 4251/2014 (GG A 80) the following indent shall be added:  
"12(i) "Third-country worker": a third-country national who has been admitted in Greece and who is legally residing and is allowed to work in the

context of a paid relationship in Greece in accordance with national law."

2. In indent 16, paragraph 1, Article 1 of Law 4251/2014 the following indent shall be added :

"16(i) "Single permit": a residence permit issued by the authorities of Greece using the uniform format as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 of the Council of 13 June 2002 (EEL 157, 16 June 2002), as is in force, where all the preconditions for access to the labour market are mentioned, which allows a third-country national to reside legally in Greek territory for the purpose of work."

3. At the end of paragraph 1, Article 1 of Law 4251/2014, indent (lvii) shall be added to read as follows:

"lvii) "Single application procedure": any procedure leading, on the basis of a single application made by a third-country national, to a decision on this application, for the authorization of residence and work in the Greek territory."

4. Indent 15, paragraph 1, Article 1 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:

"15) Long term Visa (national visa D category): granted to third-country nationals by competent Greek authorities for entrance and residence in the Greek territory for a period longer than ninety (90) days and up to 365 days, in accordance with national or EU law with respect to the residence status of third-country nationals."

5. Following Article 2 of Law 4251/2014, Article 2A shall be added to read as follows:

#### **"Article 2A**

1. These provisions shall apply to:
  - a) Third-country nationals who apply for initial permit of residence in the Greek territory for the purpose of work, for one of the residence permit categories mentioned in indent 2 of this Article,
  - b) Third-country nationals holders of permit of residence in Greek territory in

- accordance with provisions of Articles 15, 16, 17, 19 paragraph 7, 61, 64, 98, 114 and 122 of Law 4251/2014,
- c) Third-country nationals who have been admitted in Greek territory in accordance with any other provision which provides for a permit of residence and right to work.
2. These provisions shall not apply to:
    - a) persons who are defined in paragraph 1, Article 2 of Law 4251/2014;
    - b) family members of citizens of the EU who have exercised, or are exercising their right to free movement within the Union, in accordance with Presidential Decree 106/2007 (GG A 135’);
    - c) Third-country nationals who, together with their family members, and irrespective of their nationality, enjoy rights of free movement equivalent to those of citizens of the Union under agreements either between the Union and the member states or between the union and third countries;
    - d) Persons falling under the provisions of Presidential Decree 219/2000 (GG A 190) transposing to Greek law the provisions of Directive 96/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 (EEL 18 of 21 January 1997);
    - e) Persons who have applied for admission or have been admitted to the Greek territory in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2014/66/EU of the European parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 (EEL 157 of 25 May 2014);
    - f) Persons who have applied for admission or have been admitted to the Greek territory as seasonal workers;
    - g) Persons who are long-term residents of a EU member state in accordance with Directive 2003/109/EC of the Council of 25 November 2003 (EEL 16 of 13 January 2004) and Articles 88 to 106 of Law 4251/2014;
    - h) Persons who are third-country nationals falling under the return provisions in accordance with Law 3907/2011 (9A7) or Law 3386/2005 (GG A212) and whose removal has been suspended on the basis of fact or law;
  - i) Persons who have applied for admission or who have been admitted in to the Greek territory as self-employed workers in accordance with Article 16 of Law 4251/2014;
  - j) Persons who have applied for admission or have been admitted as seafarers for employment or work in any capacity on board of a ship registered in or sailing under the flag of a EU member state;
  - k) Persons who are third-country nationals authorized to work in Greek territory for a period not exceeding six (6) months, in accordance with the provisions of Law 4251/2014 or have been admitted in other member state for the purpose of study;
  - l) Persons who are third-country nationals allowed to work on the basis of a national visa, in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 of Law 4251/2014.
3. The single residence permit shall be issued, amended or renewed according to the provisions of Articles 8 and 9 herein, within four (4) months of the date on which the application was lodged unless otherwise provided in this Code. If the information or documents in support of the application are incomplete, the competent authority shall notify the applicant in writing of the additional information or documents required, setting a reasonable deadline to provide them not exceeding two (2) months. The time limit referred above shall be suspended until additional information required has been received. This time limit can be extended to up to three (3) months in exceptional circumstances, linked to the complexity of the examination of the application. If decision has not been reached within the deadline set in this paragraph, the provisions of Article 4 and 10 of the Code for Administrative Proceedings shall apply, as ratified by

Article 1 of Law 2609/1999 (GG A45) and is in force. Otherwise, the provisions of Article 45 of Presidential decree 18/1989 (GG A8) are not affected.

4. An application for a single permit shall be considered inadmissible on the grounds of volumes of admission of third-country nationals and the maximum number of employment posts provided for has been covered according to paragraph 1, Article 11 of Law 4251/2014.
5. Third-country nationals holders of a single permit issued under the current legislation, shall receive information on the rights and obligations on the basis of this permit in accordance with the provisions of indent 5, paragraph 2 of Article 2 of Law 4018/2011 (GG A215)."
6. The following paragraph shall be added to Article 135 of Law 4251/2014 to read as follows:  
"3. Annually, and for the first time not later than 30 June 2016, the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction shall communicate to the European Commission, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council of 11 July 2007 (EEL 199 of 31 July 2007), statistics on the volumes of third-country nationals who have been granted a single permit during the previous calendar year, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 862/2007.

#### **Article 7**

#### **Amendment of the provisions of Law 4251/2014 for the transposition of Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 to Greek law**

1. Indent (xxiv), paragraph 1, Article 1 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:  
"xxiv) "Seasonal work: an activity carried out in Greece for a period up to six (6) months in total within twelve

(12) months in a seasonal activity area which is tied to a certain time of the year by a recurrent event or pattern of events linked to seasonal conditions during which required labour levels are significantly above those necessary for usually ongoing operations."

2. Paragraph 3, Article 11 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:

"3. The arrangements referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply accordingly in determining the volume of admission for purposes of seasonal work, of fishermen and highly qualified employment pursuant to Articles 109 to 127. Especially in regard to inviting seasonal workers in agriculture, the ministerial decision referred to in paragraph 1 hereof may determine the maximum number of posts per country of origin, as well as the ratio of arable land or livestock of the applicant employer to the number of seasonal workers whose hiring may be requested. The list of employment sectors on which these provisions apply in regard to the admission of third-country nationals for the purpose of seasonal work, include farming, forestry and livestock farming. This list of areas of employment may be expanded to include additional ones with activities dependent on the change of seasons, following consultation, with a joint decision of the Ministers of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, of Economy, of Infrastructure, of Mercantile Marine and Tourism, of Production Reconstruction, of Environment and Energy, of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity, and of the Minister responsible in each case. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction to notify this list and its updates to the European Commission."

3. Article 13 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:

"Article 13



Entry of third-country nationals for the purposes of seasonal work

1. The provisions of this Article apply for third-country nationals either residing outside the Greek territory and are applying to enter and reside in Greece, or have already been granted permission according to the provisions of this Code, for the purposes of seasonal work.
2. These provisions shall not apply to third-country nationals who:
  - a) When applying, are already residing in Greek territory with the exception of cases referred to in subindent (ii) of indent (a) of Article 18 of this Code,
  - b) Fall under the provisions of presidential decree 219/2000 (GG A 190) which transposed Directive 96/71/EC or the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 (EEL 18 of 21 January 1997) into Greek legislation,
  - c) Are members of family of European Union citizens exercising their right to free movement within the EU in accordance with the provisions of presidential decree 106/2007 (GG A135) as amended with Article 42 of Law 4071/2012 (GG A85),
  - d) Along with the members of their family and regardless of their citizenship, enjoy the right of free movement, equal to the rights of European Union citizens, by virtue of agreements concluded either between the EU and its member states or between the EU and third countries which are their countries of origin.
3. An employer wishing to hire personnel for the purposes of seasonal work based on the posts included in the joint ministerial decision referred to in Article 11 of this Code, shall lodge an application with the competent agency of the Decentralized Administration in their place of residence, stating the number of posts, the details and nationality of the third-country nationals to be employed, their specialization and the duration of their employment.

The employer shall also lodge:

- a) Receipt of payment of one hundred and fifty euro (150€) for each third-country national to be employed, collected by the State and not refundable;
- b) A Solemn statement for employment of the persons in question and undertaking the relevant costs in case the preconditions of paragraph 3, Article 80 of Law 3386/2005 (GG A212) apply.
- c) A valid work contract for the purposes of seasonal work signed by the employer who is established in the Greek territory, including details on:
  - i) The type of employment and the date of commencement;
  - ii) The location where this employment takes place;
  - iii) The date on which employment commences;
  - iv) The duration of employment;
  - v) The maximum number of hours of employment, which should be mentioned specifically per day, within a week or month;
  - vi) The remuneration of the worker which in no case may be less than the remuneration of unskilled workers;
  - vii) The amount of the possible holiday pay in case it is provided for in the contract, and
  - viii) Any other term of employment depending on each case.
- d) Supporting documents in case the worker, according to the contract of employment, shall exercise a profession which is regulated by law, as stipulated by Presidential Decree 38/2010 (GG A 78), certifying that the third-country national fulfills the preconditions of the relevant provisions of national law to exercise this in Greece. The provisions which are to be applied in each case are defined on the basis of the description of the profession in the relevant work contract.
- e) Evidence that appropriate lodgings are provided to the worker as this is defined in a decision of the Minister of

Health, delegated in accordance with Article 43 of Law 4025/2011 (GG A228), as in force. In case it is the employer who provides for lodgings, it is their responsibility on the one hand to assure that this accommodation fulfills the necessary health and safety standards set by the health regulations in force, under the control of competent authorities, and on the other hand to notify the competent authority on any change of this accommodation. In case the seasonal worker has to pay rent, the employer offers to the seasonal worker a rental contract or an equivalent document mentioning explicitly the terms of rental. In any case, the amount of rent should be in proportion to the remuneration of the seasonal worker and the quality of lodgings, and it is not automatically deducted from the seasonal worker's wages. When the employer does not provide for accommodation, they should submit to the Decentralized Administration evidence that the seasonal worker provides for their own lodgings fulfilling the necessary standards as required by the law.

- 4) If the employer wishes to employ a third-country national in the sector of rural economy or in an establishment referred to in paragraph 1, Article 7 law 3232/2004 (GG A 48), as in force, they should submit also a payment receipt for employer's monthly social security contributions to the Agricultural Insurance Organization (OGA) provided for in the current legislation.

When the employer is a natural person they should submit a payment receipt for the above social security contributions for the employment of at least one (1) month. For the remaining time of the request to hire for employment (invitation to hire), the employer may deposit social security contributions or to delegate OGA to deduct in total social security contributions corresponding to this

time, from the Payment and Control Agency for Guidance and Guarantee Community Aid (OPEKEPE).

The duration in the request to hire cannot be less than two (2) months. Even if the work contract mentions specific days or hours of work per week or month, social security contributions are calculated for one month, regardless of possible shorter time of employment in a month.

The abovementioned declaration of the employer that social security contributions for this specific invitation are to be deducted from subsidies is irrevocable.

If, for any reason, the invited third-country national is refused entry or is not granted a relevant visa or fails to enter the country and this is attested by the body which is in each case competent, social security contributions which have been prepaid or to be deducted by OGA from subsidies, are refunded to the employer. The social security contributions corresponding to the remaining period of intended employment of the invited worker are refunded to the employer, who deposited it, provided the worker is subject to the return or deportation process. In case of termination of contract by the worker, the employer shall be refunded the social security contributions corresponding to the remaining period of employment, from the first day of the next month until the end of the period covered by the invitation, strictly under the condition that the third-country national has left the country and this is attested.

Social security contributions are refunded following application by the employer or are off-set against any amounts ought to Agricultural Insurance Organization (OGA).

In case the employer does not receive any subsidy or the amount to be received as subsidy does not cover the contributions for the remaining period

- of intended employment of the invited worker, these shall be requested from OGA. In case these are not paid, OGA shall initiate their recovery procedure.
- 5) If the employer wishes to employ a third-country national in a field of employment that is subject to social security by the Social Security Foundation (IKA), the social security legislation in force shall apply.
  - 6) The agency of the Decentralized Administration that has territorial jurisdiction pursuant to paragraph 2, Article 8 of Law 4251/2014, shall be the competent authority to review the application and forward the relevant authorizations to the competent Greek consular authority, the authorizations of the competent directorates of the Decentralized Administrations should be forwarded to the local competent correspondent of OGA (Agricultural Insurance Organization), in case of employment in the rural economy or to the locally competent branches of IKA (Social Security Foundation) and the regional services of the Hellenic Labour Inspectorate (SEPE) in all other cases.
  - 7) Greek consular authorities decide on the application for entry in the Greek territory for the purposes of seasonal work and notify the applicant on their decision, according to applicable law, within ninety (90) days following lodging a complete application.
  - 8) If an application for extension of stay is lodged, according to provisions of Article 18, on the basis of an application complete with all necessary documents, the seasonal worker is not obliged to break their work contract either with the same employer or with a different one, at the time the application is examined.
  - 9) If an application is not complete, competent authorities shall notify the applicant within reasonable time on the additional information needed and set a reasonable deadline within which these should be submitted. The period of time referred to in paragraph 7 is suspended until the completed file is received by the competent authorities of the Decentralized Administration or the Greek consular authorities, where appropriate.
  - 10) If the entry authorization for the purposes of seasonal work expires during the examination of the application for extension of stay, according to Article 18, the competent authorities allow the seasonal worker to remain in Greek territory until the decision is taken, provided the application for extension was filed with a valid visa and the time limit mentioned in (i), paragraph 1, Article 18 has not expired.
4. The first two sentences and indent (a) of paragraph 1, Article 18 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:
 

“1. Third-country nationals entering the country for a specific purpose and a specific period of time which depends on attainment of the relevant purpose shall be granted by the competent consular authority a category D visa for a duration longer than the ninety (90) days which allows them to reside in the country for employment or other purposes, without prejudice to the general and special provisions on visas. By derogation, a uniform entry visa (category C – for short term stay) with the right to employment is granted to seasonal workers entering the country for a period longer than ninety (90) days. This visa is granted, where applicable, to third-country nationals falling under the following categories:

    - a. Seasonal workers
 

As for third-country nationals for whom the competent agency of the Decentralized Authority has issued and forwarded to the competent consular authorities a decision approving their seasonal employment, the competent consular authority can issue, provided all other general and special provisions are fulfilled, the following entry visas:

- 1) A national entry visa for seasonal work for a maximum period of six (6) months stay. The third-country national can enter a new with a respective entry visa after six (6) months have lapsed after the expiry of the previous entry visa, or
- 2) A national entry visa for seasonal work for a maximum period of one (1) year with the right to seasonal employment of six (6) months duration in total during the duration of the entry visa, which result from the employment periods mentioned in the work contract, or
- 3) A uniform short term entry visa (Schengen visa) of multiple entries for a maximum period of six (6) months for stay of ninety (90) days for seasonal work, according to the provisions of Regulation 810/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council of 13 July 2009 (EEL 243 of 15 September 2009) and section (xiv) of Law 4251/2014.

In order for the aforementioned to be implemented, the work contract should mention the estimated periods of employment of the seasonal worker. This entry visa grants right of access to the labour market exclusively for the specific work and the specific employer, on whose request to hire this visa has been granted. When this entry visa or the short term entry visa is granted, the competent consular authority should indicate under the national information box entitled "Remarks" on the adhesive visa that it is being issued for the purposes of seasonal work according to point 12 of the Annex of Regulation (EC) No 1638/1995 of Council of 29 May 1995 (EEL 164 of 14 July 1995). In case the applicant had entered the territory previously in the past for the purposes of seasonal work and in order to be issued the appropriate visa as above, competent authorities shall examine if obligations stemming from this visa had been respected.

After the maximum duration of stay has been reached, the seasonal worker cannot re-enter the Greek territory

- before a period of six (6) months since the conclusion of their seasonal work has not lapsed, according to indent A of paragraph 1 of this Article. Third-country national seasonal workers should leave the Greek territory immediately when the employment period reaches its end. In case they fail to do so, they cannot re-enter the country for any of the purposes mentioned herein and for a period of five (5) years starting at the date when they should have left the country.
- ii. Within the maximum period of stay, as this is defined in the first sentence of paragraph 1 herein and before this is reached, provided that the preconditions of Article 13 herein are fulfilled, the third-country national who has been granted an entry visa for the purposes of seasonal work and is legally residing on Greek territory, lodges an application to the competent service of the local Decentralized Authority to extend their stay, in case:
    - a) Their contract with the same employer is being extended or a new contract is concluded with a different employer,
    - b) They have not exceeded their maximum period of stay, and
    - c) The grounds for rejection pursuant to Article 24 herein are not fulfilled as appropriate.
  - iii) The competent service of the Decentralized Administration rejects an application for extension of stay of a third-country national for the purposes of seasonal work if the maximum duration of stay has been reached, as provided for in the provisions herein or if the seasonal worker has already filed a claim for international protection pursuant to Presidential Decree 141/2013 (GG A 226).
  - iv. Extension of stay for the purposes of this Article is granted, if approved, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4, Article 5 of Law 4251/2014. An extension of stay by

- application of the provisions of this Article is granted only once.
- v. Following their entry in the country and the start of their employment, seasonal workers receive health services and medical care. Otherwise, the provisions of Article 7 of Law 3232/2004 (GG A 48) are in force, as applicable.
  - vi. Following entering Greece, third-country nationals may be submitted to sample health controls for the interests of public health, upon order of the Secretary General of the locally competent Decentralized Authority; this health control includes only the strictly necessary procedures and does not incur any cost on workers.”
5. Article 21A shall be added in Law 4251/2014, to read as follows:

“Article 21A

Equal treatment of workers, holders of single permit

1. Workers holders of a single permit shall enjoy equal treatment with nationals with regard to:
  - a) The right to enter and reside the Greek territory as well as free access, with the restrictions provided for in paragraph 1, Article 21,
  - b) The right to exercise the specific activity for which they have been granted an entry visa,
  - c) Terms of employment, including the minimum age of employment, working conditions, including pay and dismissal, work schedule, leaves of absence and bank holidays, as well as health and safety requirements at the work place,
  - d) The right to strike and take industrial action, in accordance with national law, and freedom of association and affiliation and membership of an organization representing workers or employers or of any organization whose members are engaged in a specific occupation, including the benefits conferred by such organizations, including the right to negotiate and conclude collective agreements, without prejudice to the national provisions on public policy and public security,
2. Seasonal workers moving to a third country, or their survivors who reside in the third country and who derive rights from those workers, shall receive, in relation to old age, invalidity and death, statutory pensions based on those workers’ previous employment and acquired in accordance with the legislation referred to Article 3 of Regulation (EC) 883/2004, under the same conditions and the same rates as Greek nationals when they move to a third country.
3. Equal treatment restrictions apply in the following cases
  - e) Education and vocational training,
  - f) Recognition of diplomas, certificates and other professional qualifications in accordance with the relevant national procedures,
  - g) The national law provisions on branches of social security, as defined in Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 (EEL 166 of 30 April 2004). The special provisions in Annex of Regulation (EC) No 1231/2010 of Council (Eel 344 of 29 September 2010) and No 987/2009 (EEL 284 of 30 October 2009) shall apply accordingly.
  - h) Without prejudice to existing bilateral agreements, payment of amounts related to acquired interests under the law for old age pensions in accordance with national law or legislation of the EU member state owing these amounts in case of movement to a third country,
  - i) Access to goods and services and the supply of goods and services made available to the public, including housing procedures, as well as access to information and advise services by employment offices without prejudice to the freedom of contract in accordance with Union and national law,
  - j) Tax benefits, in so far as the seasonal worker is deemed to be resident for tax purposes in the Greek territory.

- a. With respect to the provisions of national law on social security branches and unemployment benefits with prejudice to Regulation (EC) No 1231/2010 (EEL 344 of 29 December 2010) to third-country nationals who have entered the country on an entry visa for the purposes of studies, as well as to those who have the right to work on an entry visa,
  - b. With respect to study and maintenance grants and loans or other grants and loans and related to studies or vocational training to those with right to work on an entry visa. With respect to access to university and post-secondary education and to vocational training which is not directly linked to the specific employment activity, specific prerequisites are laid down including language proficiency, according to national law.
  - c. With respect to tax benefits in the cases where the registered or usual place of residence of the family members of the third-country worker, for whom he/she claims benefits, does not lie in the Greek territory.
  - d. With respect to access of housing for third-country nationals who are not in employment.
4. The right to equal treatment laid down in paragraph 1 shall be without prejudice to the right of the competent authorities to withdraw, or refuse authorization issued under the provisions herein.
  5. Competent Greek consular authorities and competent authorities of the Decentralized administration provide workers and employers alike with all necessary information on the application procedure, the necessary supporting documents, their rights and obligations as well as the provided for procedural guarantees.”
  6. Article 21B shall be added in Law 4251/2014, to read as follows:
 

“Article 21B  
Equal treatment of seasonal workers
1. Seasonal workers shall be entitled to equal treatment with nationals with regard to:
    - a) The right to enter and remain in the Greek territory as well as free access, with the restrictions provided for in paragraph 1, Article 21, within the validity period of the entry visa of Article 18,
    - b) The right to exercise the specific activity for which they have been granted the respective entry visa,
    - c) The terms of employment, including minimum working age, working conditions, including pay and dismissal, working hours, leave and holidays as well as health and safety requirements at the workplace,
    - d) The right to strike and take industrial action, in accordance with national law, and freedom of association and affiliation and membership of an organization representing workers or of any organization whose members are engaged in a specific occupation, including the rights and benefits conferred by such organizations, including the right to negotiate and conclude collective agreements, without prejudice to the national provisions on public policy and public security,
    - e) Education and vocational training,
    - f) Recognition of diplomas, certificates and other professional qualifications, in accordance with the relevant national procedures,
    - g) Back payments to be made by employees, concerning any outstanding remuneration to the third-country national, also according to the provisions of Article 81 of Law 4052/2012 (GG A 41) as in force,
    - h) National law provisions on branches of social security as set in Regulation (EU) No 1231/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 (EEL 344 of 29 December 2010),
    - i) Without prejudice to existing bilateral agreements, payment of amounts

- related to acquired interests under the law for old age pensions in accordance with national law or legislation of the EU member state owing these amounts in case of movement to a third country,
- j) Access to goods and services and the supply of goods and services made available to the public, except housing without prejudice to the freedom of contract in accordance with Union and national law,
  - k) Tax benefits, in so far as the seasonal worker is deemed to be resident for tax purposes in the Greek territory,
  - l) Advice services on seasonal work afforded by employment offices.
2. Seasonal workers moving to a third country of the survivors of such seasonal workers residing in a third-country deriving rights from the seasonal worker, shall receive statutory pensions based on the seasonal worker's previous employment and acquired in accordance with the legislation set out in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004, under the same conditions and at the same rates as Greek nationals when they move to a third-country.
  3. Equal treatment restrictions apply in the following cases:
    - i) With respect to family benefits and unemployment benefits, without prejudice to Regulation (EC) No 1231/2010 and the provisions of national law on social security branches, as defined in Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the Council.
    - j) With respect to education and vocational training which is not directly linked to the specific employment activity. Equal treatment does not include study and maintenance grants and loans or other grants and loans related to education and vocational training.
    - k) With respect to tax benefits in cases where the registered or usual place of residence of the family members of the seasonal worker for whom he/she claims benefits does not lie in Greek territory.
  4. The right to equal treatment provided for in paragraph 1 shall be without prejudice to the right of competent authorities to withdraw or refuse to extend or renew the authorization for the purpose of seasonal work in accordance with Article 24 herein.
  5. Competent Greek consular authorities and competent authorities of the Decentralized Administration provide workers and employers alike with all necessary information on the application procedure, the necessary supporting documents, their rights and obligations as well as the provided for procedural guarantees."
  6. In Article 18 of Law 4251/2014, the following paragraphs shall be added:
    - "2. Authorization for the purpose of seasonal work is not issued, or is withdrawn in case the competent authority of the Decentralized Administration finds out that
      - a) Preconditions of Article 13 are not met,
      - b) Documents submitted for the purposes of Article 13 have been fraudulently acquired, or falsified, or tampered with in accordance with the provisions herein,
      - c) The employer's business is being under national insolvency laws,
      - d) The employer has failed to meet his legal obligations on social security, taxation, labour rights and working conditions or terms of employment as provided for in applicable law and/or collective agreements,
      - e) The third-country national has not complied with the obligations arising from previous decision on admission as a seasonal worker,
      - f) The vacancy could be filled by a Greek national or a EU citizen in accordance with the principle of preference for Union citizens,
      - g) The employer has been sanctioned for undeclared work and /or illegal employment in accordance with Article

- 28 herein and Articles 85, 87 and 88 of Law 4052/2012 (GG A 41), as is in force,
- h) The employer has not fulfilled his obligations under the work contract,
- i) The third-country national resides in Greek territory for purposes other than seasonal work.
3. The competent Greek consular authority without prejudice to the general and special terms for refusing entry in accordance with Article 4 of this Code shall reject or shall refuse authorization when the documents presented for the purposes of Article 13 were fraudulently acquired, or falsified or tampered with, in accordance with the provisions herein.
  4. The competent Greek consular authority may withdraw the authorization for the purposes of seasonal work if the third-country national applies for international protection under Presidential Decree 141/2013 (GG A 226).
  5. Indents (c), (d), (g), (h), of paragraph 1 of this Article do not apply if the third-country national applying for extension of stay in accordance with provisions of Article 18 for the purposes of seasonal work with a different employer and if these grounds were met for the previous employer as well.
  6. Grounds for rejection are applied proportionally to hiring requests applications submitted by employers to the competent authority of the Decentralized Administration by virtue of Article 13 of the Code.
  7. In parallel to the provisions herein, relevant rejection and withdrawal provisions of the Visa Code are applied also.
  8. Reasons for a decision declaring inadmissible an application for authorization for the purpose of seasonal work or rejecting an application for authorization for the purpose of seasonal work or refusing an extension of stay or renewal of the authorization for the purpose of seasonal work shall be given in writing to the applicant, as well as to the competent Greek consular authority in each case. Reasons for decision withdrawing the authorization for the purpose of seasonal work shall be given in writing to both the seasonal worker and the employer.
  9. Any decision rejecting an application or withdrawing an authorization for the purposes of seasonal work shall take into account of the specific circumstances of the case, including the interests of the seasonal workers, and respect the principle of proportionality.
  10. Any recourse to the competent administrative court does not relieve the third-country national from the obligation to leave the country when the maximum period of stay has expired, in accordance with case (i) of paragraph 1 of Article 18.
  11. Procedural safeguards concerning short stay visas are regulated in the relevant provisions of the Visa Code.”
  8. Paragraph 2, Article 18 shall be renumbered as Paragraph 12.
  9. In indent (c) of Paragraph 2, Article 16 of Law 4251/2014 the following indent shall be added:  
“The provisions of Articles 83 and 86 of Law 4052/2012 (GG A 41), as in force, apply also proportionally to the case of seasonal workers.”
  10. In Article 26 of Law 4251/2014 paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 shall be added to read as follows:  
“5. The Labour Inspectorate (SEPE), as the competent authority for inspection of labour, in accordance with provisions of Law 3996/2011 (GG A 170) and Law 4052/12, as in force, has the competences for monitoring, inspecting and keeping information, as these are vested with paragraph 2, Article 2 of Law 3996/2011, as in force.  
6. The Migration Policy Directorate of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, communicates every year to the European Commission, in accordance with Regulation (EC) 862/2007 of the



European Parliament and of the Council, statistics on the number of third-country nationals granted authorisations for the purposes of seasonal work for the first time, as well as on the number of third-country nationals whose authorisation has been extended or withdrawn during the previous calendar year. These statistics shall be disaggregated by citizenship, as far as possible by the period of validity of the authorisation and the economic sector.

7. The statistics referred to in the previous paragraph shall relate to the reference period of one calendar year and shall be communicated to the European Commission within six months of the end of the reference year. The first reference year shall be 2017.”

11. In Article 28 of Law 4251/2014, the following paragraphs shall be added:

“8. Employers should provide the competent Greek consular authorities or the authorities of the Decentralized Administrations all relevant information needed for issuing or extending the authorisation for the purposes of seasonal work.

9. Employers should inform the services of local Decentralized Authorities on any change of accommodation of the seasonal worker in accordance with indent (e), paragraph 3, Article 13 herein. If the authorities find out that the employer has not provided accommodation to seasonal worker, or that the provided one does not meet the health and safety standards in force, (i) a fine of one hundred five thousands euro (1.500€) is imposed to the employer, and (ii) the employer is not allowed to apply to hire a seasonal worker for five years.

10. Employers who have breached their obligations previously in employing a seasonal worker can apply to hire a third-country national three years following the date on which the first infringement was identified.

11. In case of withdrawal of authorisation for the purpose of seasonal work on the grounds of indents (c), (d), (g) of paragraph 2, Article 18 of Law 4251/2014, the employer shall be liable to pay compensation to the seasonal worker in accordance with all applicable procedures. Any liability shall cover any outstanding obligations which the employer would have to respect if the authorisation for the purpose of seasonal work had not been withdrawn.

12. Where the employer is a subcontractor who has infringed the provisions herein and where the main contractor and any intermediate subcontractor have not undertaken due diligence obligations as defined by national law, the main contractor and any intermediate subcontractor shall be

- a) Subject to the sanctions referred to in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of this Article,
- b) Liable to pay any compensation due to the seasonal worker in accordance with paragraph 11 and the provisions of Article 85 of Law 4052/2012, as in force,
- c) Liable to pay any back payment to the seasonal worker in accordance with Articles 81 and 85 of Law 4052/2012, as in force.

13. The employer should keep the work contract referred to in Article 13 signed by him and the worker for five (5) years after it has been signed and in case of inspection, demonstrate this to the competent inspectors.”

### **PART III**

## **MIGRATION POLICY ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Article 8**

#### **Replacement of provisions of Law 4251/2014**

1. In indent (c), element (xxxv), paragraph 1, Article 1 of Law 4251/2014, “EU national” is corrected as “Greek”.

2. Paragraphs 1 and 2, Article 3 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:
  - “1. A person may enter and exit the Greek territory only through controlled border crossings. A joint decision of the Ministers of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, of National Defence, of Foreign Affairs, of Finance and of Economy, Infrastructure, Mercantile Marine and Tourism, defines the airports, ports and land crossings on the country’s borders one may enter and exit the Greek territory, as well as the content of any kind of check and control, the competent agents and the procedure for the implementation of judicial decisions and administrative acts in relation to entry to and exit from the country. Surveillance of land and sea borders is carried out by the competent police and coast police authorities. Entry and exit through other than border crossings may be allowed on exceptional grounds, by a decision of the Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction specifying also the way in which the control should be carried out.
  2. Controls on persons entering to or exiting from the Greek territory falls under the competence of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction and is carried out by the locally competent, to this effect, police authorities.”
  3. In indent (c) of paragraph 1, Article 17 of Law 4251/2014, reference to “Law 27/1975 (GG A 77)” is corrected as “Law 2289/1995 (GG A 27), as in force.
  4. In paragraph 8, Article 19 of Law 4251/2014, the words “in points” are deleted and the word “Interior” shall be replaced with “Interior and Administrative Reconstruction.”
  5. In paragraph 2, Article 22 of Law 4251/2014, “of paragraph 6, Article 9” is corrected as “of paragraph 4, Article 9”.
  6. In paragraph 2, Article 26 of Law 4251/2014, indents (f), (f), and (g) shall be replaced with (f), (g), (h) and in indent f, following “services”, “of Article 19” shall be deleted and replaced with “in accordance with the provisions of Articles 19 and 19A”.
  7. Paragraph 1, Article 25 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:
    - “1. The acts of the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration, issued pursuant to this Code, are not subject to legality appeal before the Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction.”
  8. In paragraph 1, Article 35 of Law 4251/2014 reference to Articles 24 and 25 is corrected with “32 and 33”.
  9. In paragraph 5, Article 44 of Law 4251/2014, reference to Articles “37 and 38” is corrected with “32, 33 and 34”.
  10. In paragraphs 1 and 4 of Article 44 of Law 4251/2014 “schools of liberal studies” shall be replaced with “lifelong learning centres”.
  11. In the first part of paragraph 2, Article 121 of Law 4251/2014, “paragraph 2 (a)” is corrected as “paragraph 1(a)”.
  12. In paragraph 3, Article 121 of Law 4251/2014, number “7” is corrected as number “6”.
  13. In paragraph 4, Article 121 of Law 4251/2014, numbers “3” and “4” are corrected as “2” and “3”.
  14. In paragraph 5, Article 121 of Law 4251/2014, number “7” is corrected as “6”.
  15. In paragraph 3, Article 122 of Law 4251/2014, “in Article 115” is corrected as “in Article 114”.
  16. In the last sentence of paragraph 4, Article 123 of Law 4251/2014, number “6” shall be corrected as “7”.
  17. In the third sentence in indent (c), paragraph 4, Article 138 of Law 4251/2014, reference to provisions of “paragraph 8 of this Article” shall be corrected as “paragraph 7 of this Article”.

18. In paragraph 14, Article 138 of Law 4251/2014, "Article 44 paragraph 1, indent (i) of Law 3386/2005" is corrected as "Article 44, paragraph 1, indent (h) of Law 3386/2005".
19. Paragraph 2, Article 139 shall be replaced to read as follows:  
 "Since the entry into force of Law 4251/2014, the provisions of Articles 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 83 and 89 (paragraphs 1-3) of Law 3386/2005 as in force, continue to apply, as well as the provisions of Article 15 of Law 3536/2005 (GG A 42), the provisions of paragraph 8, Article 18 of Law 3870/2010 (GG A 138), Presidential Decree 106/2007 (GG A 135), the Joint Ministerial Decision No 23443/2011 (GG B 2225), as well as regulatory acts issued as delegated under paragraph 2, Article 4, paragraph 3, Article 5, as well as paragraph 5 , Article 73 of Law 3386/2005, as in force."
20. At the end of subparagraph (a), Article 6 of Law 4251/2014, the following shall be added:  
 "When examining the contents of the file, the Committee takes into account necessarily the extent to which the applicant has been integrated into society.
21. Chapter I, Article 16 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:  
 "A.1. Third-country nationals may enter and reside in Greece for the purpose of making investments with positive impact to national growth and the economy.  
 Depending on the amount of the investment and its characteristics, up to ten third-country nationals may enter and reside in Greece, investors included, for its implementation and operation.
2. On proposal by the Directorate for Foreign Capital of the Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Mercantile Marine and Tourism, concerning the characterisation of the investment and the feasibility of granting residence permits, entry and residence in Greece of third-country nationals may be allowed in order to implement and operate this investment.
3. The application and necessary supporting documents, as these are defined in the Joint Ministerial Decision referred to in paragraph 12, Article 136, are submitted to the Greek consular authority of the place of residence of the interested parties; within one month the consular authority refers these documents to the Directorate for Foreign Capital of the Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Mercantile Marine and Tourism.  
 Within one month, the application is examined by the Directorate and a proposal is sent to the consular authority so that the necessary entry visas are issued.  
 The competent consular authority may grant the necessary entry visas in case there is delay in the transfer of the proposal by the Directorate for Foreign Capital of the Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Mercantile Marine and Tourism.
4. The third-country national who has been issued with an entry visa for the purposes of an investment, is also granted a residence permit for the same purpose, provided they present the necessary documents.  
 This residence permit is of five years duration renewable for the same period each time provided the investment is still implemented or is in operation after it has been completed.
5. The aforementioned third-country nationals, by derogation of the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 70, may be escorted by family members for whom residence permits for the purpose of family reunification are issued expiring at the expiry date of the sponsor's permit.
6. The Migration Policy Directorate of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction is responsible for examining applications and issuing decisions to issue or renew residence

permits for the purpose of investment activity.

7. The provisions of this Article apply also for the entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of new investments carried out by national companies already in operation or by third-country nationals already legally residing in the country or holders of residence permit for the purpose of independent economic activity or investment activity.
8. The residence permit of third-country nationals referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall read "Residence permit for investment activity" and shall state the holder's professional capacity under "Remarks".
22. In indent (a), paragraph 1, Article 17 of Law 4251/2014, a last sentence shall be added as follows:  
"The entry and residence of third-country nationals who are to be active or employed under the aforementioned capacities, in national companies, is allowed only in case the national company has at least twenty five (25) employees."
23. Article 19, Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:

"Article 19

1. The Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction or the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration, as is in each case, may, as an exception, grant residence permit of two year duration to third-country nationals who reside in Greece and can prove that they have developed strong ties with the country. This residence permit for exceptional reasons can be renewed only for one of the other purposes referred to in this Code. An application for a residence permit for exceptional reasons shall only be examined if the interested third-country national presents: (a) an entry visa issued by a Greek consular authority at least three years before the application is lodged, or (b) a definitive

residence permit, regardless of its issuing authority, which has expired during the last ten years before the application was lodged, and (c) documents proving that this person has developed strong ties with the country which render necessary for him to remain in the Greek territory. As an exception it is not necessary for applicant to present documents under (a) or (b) if he can prove with evidence of certified date that he has been present in the country for at least seven (7) consecutive years. In all above cases, if the third-country national was a holder of a residence permit in Greece for at least five years during the last decade before the relative application was lodged, it is not necessary to present documents as referred to in (c) above. The Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction may define in a decision the documents of certified date that prove the seven year continuous stay of the applicant in the country, as well as set the grounds on which files shall be referred to Committees of Article 134 herein.

2. In case the applicant was a holder of a definite residence permit, in accordance with indent (b) of the third sentence of the previous paragraph, the residence permit is granted by a decision of the Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction. The one-stop-shop of the Migration Policy Directorate of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction is the competent authority for the lodging of applications referred to in this paragraph. In the case of an application of this paragraph, the competent service checks whether the formal preconditions are met for the application to be considered, when the application is being lodged with all supporting documents. If formal preconditions are fulfilled, lodging an application stands in the way of a return decision to be issued, in

- accordance with Article 21 of Law 3907/2011 (GG A 7). In case formal preconditions are not fulfilled for an application to be considered, lodging an application for residence permit pursuant to this Article alone shall not entail legal residence for the applicant and for the time needed until the application is considered, and provisions of Article 21 ff of Law 3907/2011 (GG A 7) apply.
3. The residence permit in case the applicant was a holder of a definitive residence permit, in accordance with indent (b) of the third sentence of the previous paragraph is granted by a decision of the Coordinator of the Decentralized Administration. Applications should be lodged to the competent service which is the one-stop-shop of the Directorate for Foreigners and Migration of the local Decentralized Administration. When receiving such applications and provided all necessary documents are submitted along with the application, competent services issue an application-lodging certificate, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 5 to 7 of Article 8 herein.
  4. In order to lodge an application of this Article, it is necessary:
    - (i) Holding a passport, even if expired. A residence permit may be granted even in cases when duly established that it is impossible for the interested party to hold a passport, since this is duly established following a reasoned request of the interested party and opinion of the competent Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of Law 4251/2014.
    - (ii) Deposit of a fee of three hundred euro (300€). Especially for the lodging of applications of paragraph 3 of this Article it is also necessary to have total sickness insurance coverage, in accordance with Article 6 (e) of this Code, through the insurance of either the applicant or their spouse. To fulfil this precondition and in order to have total sickness insurance coverage, interested parties may either buy out the necessary number of days of insurance.
  5. Residence permits of this Article give to third-country nationals the right to have access to paid employment – services or work procurement. The right to independent economic activity is granted only in case the holder of this residence permit was previously holder of a residence permit allowing him to exercise independent economic activity and this activity is still pertinent. To renew residence permits of the previous sentence, the preconditions for renewal of residence permits for independent economic activity shall be considered in accordance with the provisions of Article 138, paragraph 7 of Law 4251/2014 (GG A 80).
  6. In all exceptional cases, the Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction may grant a residence permit following an opinion by the Committee of paragraph 1, Article 134 herein, when the preconditions of paragraph 1 of this Article are not met and the applicants, risking their lives demonstrated social virtue, in acts of contribution to society and solidarity that promote humanitarian values.
  7. By a decision of the Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction residence permit shall be granted to third-country nationals, for justified purposes of public interest arising presumably from bilateral agreements or in specific cases, in regard to foreign policy, defence, home security, economy and development, investment, education, culture, following a report by the competent in each case public agency. The aforementioned residence permit is granted for up to two years and can be renewed for the same period. The aforementioned third-country nationals may be accompanied by members of their family, to whom personal residence permits are granted upon

application, which expires at the same time as the sponsor's permit."

24. Transitional provision.

Applications for exceptional reasons submitted and pending at the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction upon publication of this law shall be examined by the authority where they have been lodged in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1, Article 19 of Law 4251/2014, as in force.

25. In Law 4251/2014, Article "19A" shall be added to read as follows:

"Article 19A

Residence permits on humanitarian grounds

1. By decision of the Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, residence permits on humanitarian grounds are granted to third-country nationals who reside in Greece and fall under the following categories:

(a) Victims of trafficking of human beings who do not fall under the provisions of Articles 49-53 of Law 4251/2014 since there is a relevant characterisation act by the competent Public Prosecutor of District Court. The initial residence permit is of one year duration, grants the right to paid employment-procurement of services or work and can be renewed for two years each time only under the precondition that the relevant criminal proceedings continue. If criminal proceedings are not pending, the residence permit is renewed for one year only.

(b) Victims and important witnesses of criminal actions, provided for in Articles 81A, 187, 187A, 309 and 310 of the Criminal Code and Articles 1 and 2 of Law 927/1979 (GG A 139) as in force or are punishable as serious crimes and are against life, health, physical integrity, property, ownership, personal and sexual freedom provided an preliminary examination has been ordered or criminal proceedings have

been initiated and until the case is closed or a final decision is issued by court. The competent District Court Public Prosecutor establishes the existence of the aforementioned preconditions with an act which is notified to the Migration Policy Directorate of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction. In case the aforementioned persons are under a treatment, the residence permit is still granted for the duration of their treatment. The initial residence permit is valid for one year, it gives the right to paid employment – procurement of services or work and can be renewed each time for up to two years provided the same preconditions are met.

(c) Victims of domestic violence, in accordance with Law 3500/2006 (GG A 232). The initial residence permit is valid for one year and can be renewed for up to two years each time provided the same preconditions are met. A residence permit of the same duration is granted also to the minor children of the victims of domestic violence or to the adult having custody of the minor victims of domestic violence provided it is not the same person as the potential offender. Adults holding a residence permit in this case, have the right to paid employment – procurement of services or work.

(d) Third-country nationals who have been employed under particularly abusive working condition either as minors, in accordance with Article 89 of Law 4052/2012. Such terms are those that are flagrantly disproportionate to the working conditions of the legally employed workers, having grave impact on the health and safety of the workers and insulting human dignity. Discrimination on the grounds of sex is included herein.

The initial residence permit is valid for one year. It is renewed in accordance with paragraph 6, Article 89 of Law 4052/2012. This residence permit is not

renewed or withdrawn in accordance with paragraph 7 of the same Article.

(e) Persons under a legally approved addiction treatment programme as this is proven by a written certification by the programme's Director. The initial residence permit is valid for one year, it grants the right to paid employment – procurement of services or work and can be renewed for up to two years each time provided the same preconditions are met. Upon the successful completion of the programme, the permit can be renewed on one of the grounds provided for in Law 4251/2014.

(f) Third-country nationals whose cases have been referred to the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction by the competent Determining Authorities of Article 2 indent (r) of Presidential Decree 113/2014 (A 146) and the Appeal Committees of Articles 26 and 32 of Presidential Decree 114/2010 (A 195), as in force.

In order to grant this residence permit, the impossible removal or return to the country of origin or habitual residence due to force majeure is taken seriously into account, as well as health reasons of the same person or of a member of his/her family, international sanctions of their country, the application in regard to the interested party of the clause of *non refoulement* of Article 3 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms which has been ratified with Article 1 of Decree Law 53/1974 (GG A 256) or Article 3 of the New York Convention of 10 December 1984 against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as ratified with Law 1782/1988 (GG A 116).

The application of residence permit on humanitarian grounds is considered only if the case of the interested party has been referred to the Ministry of Interior and Administrative

Reconstruction by the competent Determining Authorities of Article 2 indent (r) of Presidential Decree 113/2013 (GG A 146) in accordance with Article 33 of the same Presidential Decree or the Appeals Committees of Articles 26 and 32 of Presidential Decree 114/2010 (GG A 195) in accordance with Article 28 paragraph 1 indent b) of the same Presidential Decree, as in force, following probability estimate on the fulfilment of one or more preconditions of the second indent herein in the person of the applicant.

The application should be lodged within the mandatory time limit of ninety (90) days following delivery of the relevant information document to the interested party by the competent in each case authority.

(g) Parents of minor Greek nationals. The duration of the residence permit is one year and grants the right to paid employment – procurement of services and work, and can be renewed for one of the grounds of Law 4251/2014. To verify parentage the competent agency shall carry out any investigation deemed necessary.

2. By decision of the Coordinator of the Decentralized Authority of the place of residence of the interested third-country national, a residence permit on humanitarian grounds is granted to the following categories of third-country nationals:

(a) Adults who are not able to take care of their affairs due to severe mental or physical health issues or minors who are in need of protection measures and are accommodated in public benefit purpose entities provided that their return into a safe environment is impossible. The initial permit is valid for two years and can be renewed for up to two years each time, provided the same preconditions are met.

(b) Minors, whose custody has been assigned by a Greek Court or a foreign one recognized by the Greek

- authorities, to Greek families or families of third-country nationals who reside legally in the country or the adoption of whom is still pending before the Greek authorities. The permit is valid for two years and can be renewed for up to two years each time, provided the same preconditions are met.
- (c) Victims of labour accidents and other accidents covered by Greek law, for as long as they undergo treatment or receive pension for the same reason. The permit is valid for two years and can be renewed for up to two years each time, provided the same preconditions are met.
- (d) Minors accommodated in boarding houses that operate under the competent Ministries. The permit is valid for two years and can be renewed for up to two years each time, provided the same preconditions are met.
- (e) Persons suffering from severe mental or physical health issues: Serious health problems and the length of treatment shall be verified by a recent medical certificate. In the event that the health problem relates to an infectious disease, the Minister of Health should consent that there is no threat to public health and the said decision required for the issuance can be issued. For a residence permit to be issued to a person with severe health issues, the applicant should hold a prior valid residence permit. The permit is valid for two years and can be renewed for up to two years each time, provided the same preconditions are met; otherwise it can be renewed for one of the reasons included herein.
3. The possession of a passport irrespectively of its expiry date constitutes a prerequisite for the issuance of a residence permit to persons under the provisions of this Article. A residence permit is issued in cases where it is dully established that it is impossible for the interested party to acquire a passport, provided this is established following a reasoned application by the interested party and the opinion of the competent Committee, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 6 of Law 4251/2014. In order to issue a residence permit in the case of indent (f) of paragraph 1 herein, a passport, if there is one, should be presented.
4. No fee is required for the consideration of residence permit applications pursuant to this Article.
5. In the case of persons of paragraph 2 indent (e) herein, whose family members hold residence permits for the purpose of family reunification, it is possible to renew their residence permit for as long as the residence permit for humanitarian reasons is valid.
6. The residence permit granted in cases of paragraph 1 can be renewed for one of the reasons included in Law 4251/2014 in the event that the reasons for which these were issued are no longer valid. The Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction van define the categories of paragraph 1 herein which shall acquire the right to renew following opinion of the Commissions of paragraph 1, Article 134 in the event that the reasons that permits were originally issued are not longer valid.
7. The legal representative of the public benefit purpose entity or legal entity shall lodge the application for the issuance of residence permits for minors or adults who cannot take care of their affairs and are accommodated in any charitable foundation or public benefit entity.”
26. At the end of paragraph 3 of Chapter I, Article 20 of Law 4251/2014, paragraph 4 shall be added to read as follows:  
“4. Periods of absence from the country do not inhibit the renewal of the residence permit.”
27. The title of Chapter II, Article 20 of Law 4251/2014 “Owners of Property in Greece” shall be replaced to read as follows:



- “Permanent residence permit for investors”
28. In paragraph 4, Chapter II of Article 20 of Law 4251/2014, indent (c) shall be added to read as follows:  
“(c) Direct ascendants of spouses.”
29. The third sentence of paragraph 5, Chapter II, Article 20 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:  
“Resale of real estate property while the residence permit is valid to another third-country national grants to the new buyer the right to a residence permit while at the same time the seller’s residence permit is being withdrawn.”
30. Paragraph 7, Chapter II, Article 20 of Law 4251/2014 is abolished and paragraph 8 is renumbered as paragraph 7.
31. The first sentence of paragraph 1, Article 23 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:  
“The declarations of paragraph 1, Article 22 herein are made within two months after the occurrence of the event with the exception of the case of renewal of passport that can be made up until the residence permit renewal or reissuance application is lodged and the birth declaration that can be made up to two years following the child’s birth.”
32. Indent (b) of paragraph 1, Article 24 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:  
“An official document of a competent Greek Authority proves that for the issuance of a residence permit false or misleading information or false or falsified documents have been used, or that in any other way fraud has been committed or other illegal means were used.”
33. In paragraph 5, Article 25 of Law 4251/2014, sentences shall be added to read as follows:  
“The special certificate of legal residence is granted also to the dependent members of third-country nationals falling under paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Article, who were holders of residence permits for the purpose of family reunification, as well as minors born in Greece irrespectively of their being born before or after the rejection or the withdrawal decision of the permit of their sponsor was issued. When they reach the age of maturity, the children of holders of special certificate of legal residence shall be granted independent residence permit.”
34. Paragraph 4, Article 29 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:  
“4. A fine of one hundred euro (150€) is imposed to those who submit inaccurate declarations or certificates as the law stipulates and the delegated regulatory acts, as well as to third-country nationals who although hold residence permit, are in paid employment or provide services or work or exercise independent economic activity without the necessary in each case residence permit or approval for access to the labour market, are liable.”
35. Paragraph 1, Article 70 of Law 4251/2014, shall be replaced to read as follows:  
“1. The third-country national who resides legally in Greece for a period of two years has the right to apply for the members of his family to enter and stay in the country. The application is lodged and considered while family members are not in the Greek territory. However, if family members stay in the country before the application for family reunification is lodged, this does not constitute an impediment for the application to be lodged.”
36. The first sentence of paragraph 2, Article 71 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:  
“The agency which is responsible for examining the claim, in accordance with provisions of Article 8, should ask immediately for the opinion of the local police authority on issues related to

public order and safety of the country, aiming at establishing the family relation, especially through personal interviews with the family members and examination of the possible dangers for public health.”

37. The second sentence of paragraph 1, Article 82 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:

“The aforementioned residence card is granted also to third-country nationals who were holders of the Special identity card for foreign nationals of Greek descent (EDTO), as foreign spouses of expatriates, to recognized beneficiaries of international protection, as well as to claimants for international protection under the condition of their prior waiver of the claim for international protection and their permanent prior residence in the country for at least one year before the family relation was concluded.”

38. In paragraph 2, Article 90 of Law 4251/2014, indent (e) shall be added as follows:

“(e) provided they are holders of a Special identity card for foreign nationals of Greek descent (EDTO).”

39. The second sentence of paragraph 3, Article 90 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:

“For the beneficiaries of international protection and the persons of Greek descent, the coordinator of the locally competent Decentralized Administration is responsible for issuing a permit for long term residents.”

40. Article 108 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:

“Article 108

By derogation of the provisions Articles 88 ff herein and without prejudice to indent (c) of Article 6 herein, a five year residence permit shall be granted to adult third-country nationals who were born in Greece or have successfully attended Greek school for six years in Greece, before the age of 23, and provided they present all

necessary supporting documents. This permit gives to holders the rights referred to in Article 97, may be renewed for five years only by presenting the prior residence permit.

This permit may be renewed under the conditions of this Code, anytime while it is valid, so that the holder falls under the long resident status.

The permit is withdrawn or not renewed if there are grounds for that as stipulated in the provisions of Article 93.”

41. Paragraph 2, Article 134 of Law 4215/23014 shall be replaced to read as follows:

“2. A special three member Committee is set up at the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, to give its opinion on the temporary or permanent impossibility to present a valid passport; this Committee is set up by a decision of the Minister and it consists of: (a) a member of the Legal Council of the State at the Ministry of Interior, as Chair, and his alternate, (b) the head of the competent department of the Ministry of Interior, with an alternate member of staff of the same department, (c) a representative of the Asylum Service, proposed by the Director of the Asylum Service. Members of staff from the competent department of the Ministry of Interior are appointed as rapporteur and secretary of the Committee, as well as their alternates.”

42. Paragraph 12, Article 136 of Law 4251/2014 shall be replaced to read as follows:

“12. The necessary minimum amount and the characteristics of the investment are defined by a decision of the Ministers of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction and of Economy, Infrastructure, Mercantile Marine and Tourism, so as to fall under the provisions of Chapter I of Article 16 herein, the supporting documents to be submitted with the application of paragraph A.3 of the Article above, the

- number of residence permits of persons that is necessary for the implementation and the smooth operation of the investment, as well as the way to monitor compliance to terms and conditions in regard to investment activity.”
43. The time limit of indent (e) of paragraph 5, Article 138 of Law 4251/2014 is extended until 31 December 2015.
  44. In Article 138 of Law 4251/2014 paragraph 17 shall be added as follows: “17. Applications for entry visa for the exercise of independent economic or investment activity, on the basis of provisions of Articles 24-27 of Law 3386/2005, referred to the Directorates of Foreigners and Migration at the Decentralized Administrations in the country, are referred to the competent authorities and are considered according to provisions of Article 16 herein.”
  45. The time limit for applying to acquire the long resident status in accordance with the provisions of Article 138, paragraph 13 is extended until 31 December 2015.
  46. In case of a child born in Greece up until this law is put into force, whose one parent holds a valid residence permit, the other parent, provided he/she resides in the country, is granted a residence permit for the purposes of family reunification, by derogation of the provisions of the second sentence of paragraph 1 and indent (b) of paragraph 2, Article 20 of the Code.
  47. Residence permits that have been issued or renewed in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of Presidential Decree 114/2010, are renewed in accordance with the provisions of Article 19A of Law 4251/2014.
  48. Residence permits that had been issued or renewed in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of Presidential Decree 114/2010 and the

renewal application had been rejected by the competent agencies of paragraph 5, Article 28 of Presidential Decree 114/2010, are reconsidered in accordance with the provisions of indent (f) of paragraph 1 of Article 19A, following application by the interested party. In case the reasons for which residence permits had initially been issued are not longer valid, for the permits to be renewed for the purposes included in Law 4251/2010, it is necessary for the Committees of paragraph 1, Article 134 of Law 4251/2010 to give their opinion. The application for reconsideration of these applications is lodged within the mandatory time limit of six (6) months after this law enters into force.

[...]

#### **Article 14**

1. The second sentence of paragraph 2, Article 20 of Law 4251/2010 shall be amended and replaced to read as follows:
 

“The fee is paid by a crossed cheque or with a deposit of a bank transfer in the bank account of the recipient kept at a bank in Greece or in a credit institution under the supervision of the Bank of Greece, the particular details of which should be declared by the contracting parties before the notary public drafting the contract and be included therein.”
2. Paragraph 6, Article 30 of Law 4251/2010 shall be amended and replaced to read as follows:
 

“6. The above sanctions are not imposed in the case of rescue at sea, transfer of people in need of international protection in accordance with the principles of international law, as well as in the case of push to the inland or facilitation of travel, for the purpose of falling under the procedures of Article 83 of Law 3386/2005 or of Article 13 of Law 3907/2011 after the

- competent police and coast guard authorities are notified.”
3. Paragraph 6, Article 122 of Law 4251/2014 shall be amended and replaced to read as follows:  
 “In applying this Article, the arrangements provided for in Article 111 are applied without the precondition of providing posts in the joint ministerial decision of Article 11.”
  4. Paragraph 1, Article 130 of Law 4251/2014 shall be amended and replaced to read as follows:  
 “A Committee shall be set up to coordinate the migration policy consisting of the Secretaries General, having as their alternates the competent Directors General or the representatives appointed thereby from the Ministries of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, of Foreign Affairs, of Finance, of Economy, Infrastructure, Mercantile Marine and Tourism, Culture, of Education and Religious Affairs, of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity, of Health, of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights and the competent Coordinators of the Decentralized Administrations. This Committee meets when it is deemed necessary under the chair and the initiative of the competent Minister or Alternate Minister or Deputy Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction responsible for migration policy.”
  5. In Article 136 of Law 4251/2014, paragraph 19 shall be added to read as follows:  
 “19. A joint decision of the Ministers of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction and of Foreign Affairs defines the necessary supporting documents, the procedure for issuance of national entry visas and any other relevant detail in regard to family reunification of beneficiaries of international protection in accordance with the provisions of Presidential Decree 131/2006, as in force.”
  6. In Article 138 of Law 4251/2014, paragraph 18 shall be added to read as follows:  
 “18. Applications lodged on the basis of the provisions of Article 1, paragraph 1, indent (e) of the joint ministerial decision No 30651/3 June 2014 (GG B 1453) and are pending at the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction until this law enters into force, are considered by this Ministry.”
  7. In Article 138 of Law 4251/2015 paragraph 19 shall be added to read as follows:  
 “19. Applications lodged at the Decentralized Administrations of the country on the basis of provisions of Article 1, paragraph 2, indent (e) of the joint ministerial decision 30651/13 June 2014 (GG B 1453) are considered on the basis of the provisions of Article 108 of Law 4251/2014, as in force, with the payment of additional fee. If the preconditions of Article 108 of Law 4251/2014 are not met, the applications are considered in accordance with the arrangements of Article 1, paragraph 2, indent (e) of the joint ministerial decision No 30651/3 June 2014.
  8. The sixth sentence of paragraph 4, Article 2 of Law 4018/2011 (GG A 215) shall be amended and replaced to read as follows:  
 “A percentage of 46% of revenue entered in the Revenue Code Number (KAE) of indent (c) of this paragraph, is entered in the budget of the Central Service of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction and is broken down with decisions of the Ministers of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction and of Finance to Ministries, Decentralized Administrations, Legal Entities of Public Law and local authorities managing issues of migration policy and social integration of migrants and international protection beneficiaries.”

9. In paragraph 4, Article 2 of Law 4018/2011 (GG A 215) sentences shall be added to read as follows:

“By similar decisions it is possible to break down amounts from the same percentage to Ministries, Decentralized Administrations, Legal Entities of Public Law, and local authorities to face emergencies in first reception of third-country nationals. These appropriations may be available in order to face expenses necessary for temporary accommodation, food, immediate health and medical care, basic necessities, as well as the transfer of these citizens from one region to the other in Greek territory.”

10. For the purpose of facing emergencies and by derogation of other provisions, local authorities of first and second tier and their agencies may conclude contracts to cover needs of temporary accommodation, food, immediate health and medical care, procurement of necessities and transfer of newly arrived third-country nationals from the points of arrival to the temporary or permanent reception facilities, within their geographical area. These expenses are paid from the budget appropriations of local authorities and their agencies following a decision of the local decision body and with the respective opinion of the local Police or Coast Guard Authority in each case that establishes the emergency character of the contracts. When the above provisions are applied, provisions of Articles 29 and 30 of Law 4251/2014 are not.