



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
Federal Public Service
**Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and
Development Cooperation**

our reference

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The Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation presents its compliments to the diplomatic missions, consular posts and international organizations established in Belgium and has the honour to draw their attention to the newly updated informations on the [Protocol Directorate's specific webpage](#) regarding the measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Strict compliance with these measures is essential, especially during this end of the year period. Addressees are invited to carefully take note thereof and to ensure that they are widely circulated among the members of their staff.

A definition of the concepts of "essential travel" is to be found in the appendix.

The Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation thanks the diplomatic missions, consular posts and international organizations established in Belgium for their co-operation, and avails itself of the opportunity to renew them the assurances of its highest consideration.

Done in Brussels on December 22nd 2020.



To the diplomatic missions, consular posts
and international organizations established in Belgium

APPENDIX

Currently the following trips are considered **essential journeys**:

1. Health professionals, health researchers and professionals providing care for the elderly travelling for work;
2. Frontier workers travelling for work;
3. Seasonal agricultural workers travelling for work;
4. Transport staff travelling for work;
5. **Diplomats, staff of international organisations and people invited by international organisations whose physical presence is required for the proper functioning of those organisations, military staff (see 'Caution' hereunder),** Federal Police staff, Civil Protection staff, police officials, Immigration Office staff, customs staff and humanitarian staff, **when performing their duties**;
6. Passengers in transit, irrespective of where they are travelling from;
7. Passengers travelling for compelling family reasons, i.e.:
 - travel justified by long-term family reunification;
 - visits to a legal spouse or partner, when both do not live together for professional or personal reasons;
 - travel to an unregistered partner who does not live under the same roof;
 - travel in the context of co-parenting;
 - travel in the context of funerals or cremations (kinship = first and second degree);
 - travel in the context of civil and religious marriages (kinship = first and second degree);
8. Mariners travelling for work;
9. People travelling for humanitarian reasons; this includes travel for compelling medical reasons or to continue urgent medical treatment as well as to provide assistance or care to an elderly, minor, disabled or vulnerable person;
10. People travelling for study purposes; this includes travel by pupils, students and trainees who are undergoing training as part of their studies and researchers with a hosting agreement;
11. Highly qualified professionals travelling for economically necessary reasons which cannot be postponed; including professional sportsmen and sportswomen with elite sport status and cultural sector professionals with a combined licence, travelling for work.

CAUTION:

It is always necessary to be able to **prove journeys for essential work or compelling reasons** by means of a plausible proof. **The Protocol Directorate is exclusively competent to answer questions regarding the persons of category 5 indicated in bold above.** On presentation of a valid proof, Belgian embassies and consulates abroad (outside the EU+) can issue an "essential travel certificate" to other travelers going to Belgium.

These specific conditions are **in addition to the normal conditions of access to Belgium**. It is important, among other things, to **always take into account the visa procedures** that apply. For travelers subject to visa wishing to travel to Belgium, it should be noted that due to COVID-19, all visa procedures may not have (yet) resumed everywhere.

