

**Law Library Of Congress Global Legal Monitor: Immigration And  
Nationality Law  
March 2008 – Issue 3 G.L.M. 2008**

**By Rubens Medina, Law Librarian of Congress**

The *Global Legal Monitor*, an electronic publication of the Law Library of Congress, is intended for those who have an interest in legal developments from around the world. Globalization is a fact with far-reaching implications including an increasing number of international transactions. The Immigration and Nationality law section has been excerpted for this Feature Article.



## Immigration and Nationality

### GUINEA-BISSAU/SPAIN – Cooperation Agreement on Immigration Signed

On January 27, 2008, the Foreign Minister of Spain, Miguel Angel Moratinos, visited Guinea-Bissau to meet with Prime Minister Martinho N'Dafa Cabi. At the meeting, representatives of the two countries signed a cooperation agreement on immigration designed to control illegal immigration to Spain.

Moratinos was quoted as saying that a previous repatriation agreement signed in 2003 did not work because of its focus on policing and because it did not include aspects of cooperation in such areas as the strengthening of local police forces, the fight against human trafficking, and the hiring of legal labor. According to Moratinos, the new agreement integrates cooperative measures in security, border control, economic development, and the hiring of local workers.

Guinea-Bissau is currently a place of transit on the way to Spain for many sub-Saharan immigrants, and so another purpose of the Moratinos visit was to negotiate a broader, future collaboration of Guinea-Bissau with Frontex, the European external borders agency. (*Spain and Guinea-Bissau Sign Agreement to Curb Illegal Migration*, EL MUNDO, Jan. 28, 2008, Open Source Center, No. EUP20080128950021; *Governo e Espanha Assinam Acordo para Combater Imigração Ilegal*, NOTÍCIAS LUSÓFONAS, Jan. 27, 2008.)  
(Eduardo Soares)

### RUSSIAN FEDERATION – Quotas for Guest Workers

On February 1, 2008, a new annual cycle for the issuance of migrant quotas started in Russia. According to a government regulation, two million guest workers from abroad will be admitted in 2008, including about 60,000 people from the countries that have visa relations with Russia and the rest from the former Soviet republics, because guest workers from these republics do not need visas but merely have to be registered with local migration service offices. This number is almost three times lower than the 2007 figures, mostly because the number of permits issued for the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, the most attractive destinations for foreign laborers, has been decreased significantly, in order to secure an even distribution of migrants. Quotas can be increased by up to 30 percent if needed, and additional permits can be issued should a labor force deficit become obvious.

The distribution of quotas will be conducted according to 14 occupational categories. According to amendments to migration legislation adopted last year, foreigners are not allowed to work in the retail sector or to sell goods in markets. It is expected that the simplified registration of guest workers by merely informing the authorities, together with tough deportation policies and high fines against those who employ illegal migrants, will lead to a decrease in the number of illegal immigrants. In 2007, illegal immigrants, according to government estimates, amounted to 15 million people. In 2007, fines for illegal employment of



foreigners rose to US\$200,000. (*Federal Migration Service: Quotas for Foreign Laborers Is 2 Million People*, NEWSRU.COM INFORMATION AGENCY, Jan. 2, 2008.)  
(Peter Roudik)

#### **UNITED KINGDOM – New Migrant Entry Tax for Public Services**

The public services in the United Kingdom have faced a strain in light of increasing numbers of migrants utilizing them. The government has recently announced a new “immigration tax” that will be levied on immigrants entering the country for six months or more. The charge will be incorporated into visa fees, with persons who require more public services, such as children and the elderly, being charged a higher fee. (Home Office Border and Immigration Agency, *The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps in Reforming the Immigration System*, Feb. 2008, available at <http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/pathtocitizenship/>.)  
(Clare Feikert)

