

Partners of knowledge workers to be allowed to work freely in the Netherlands

Partners of foreign knowledge workers in the Netherlands are to be granted an exemption from the requirement of a separate work permit. This means that they can work directly without any further requirements. The exemption will be lost if the partners separate within three years.

The Dutch cabinet has made this decision based on a proposal from the Secretary of State for Social Affairs and Employment (H.A.L. van Hoof).

The exemption makes it more attractive for knowledge workers to work in the Netherlands, because in choosing a particular country it is important that the partner can also get a job quickly.

The cabinet had previously decided that foreign knowledge workers did not need separate work permits. In this way the Dutch cabinet wants to make the Netherlands an attractive destination for specialists in the area of ICT, scientific research and technology.

In October 2004, the cabinet also decided to exempt two other categories from the requirement of a work permit. The first is foreign professional footballers who, under conditions and for a maximum of four weeks, can do trial training sessions or practice competitions with a Dutch club. In addition, victims, informers and witnesses of trafficking in people who are legally resident in the Netherlands, can also work temporarily without a work permit.

The cabinet has agreed that the proposed decision be sent for advice to the Council of State. The text of the decision will be public with the publication in the Staatsblad.

Link to announcement in Dutch from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment 25-02-05

http://home.szw.nl/actueel/dsp_persbericht.cfm?jaar=2005&link_id=62870

Link to news item in the site of the Dutch government

http://www.regering.nl/actueel/nieuwsarchief/2005/09September/25/0-42-1_42-55984.jsp