

Date: 24.09.2015

Dear IEC General Meeting Delegates,

Please note important information on **VISAS TO ENTER BELARUS**

If you are not taking a direct flight to Minsk

You should check with your airline company or foreign affairs authorities whether you need a TRANSIT VISA.

In particular, Russian transit visa is needed (no matter whether you have Belarus visa or not) for foreigners travelling to Minsk from Russian airports (Moscow, St. Petersburg, etc.);

If you do not have a transit Russian visa you will not be allowed to take a flight to Minsk from Russian airport (please note that it's not possible to receive Russian transit visa in Russian airport, you can do this only in your home/residence country).

If you intend to receive a Belarus visa in Minsk airport

According to the current rules it is not possible for foreign citizen to receive a visa in Minsk airport if a foreigner takes flight to Minsk from Russian airports (Moscow, St. Petersburg, etc.). Therefore in this situation you should either

- 1) Receive Belarus visa prior to arrival to Minsk
- 2) Change your flight route in order not to fly via Russian airports (however when choosing a new route please check whether you need transit visa).

Citizens of the following countries must receive visas prior to arrival to Belarus

Afghanistan, Syria, Libya (It will not be possible for citizens of above mentioned countries to receive visas in Minsk airport).

If you will be receiving visa in Minsk airport

We encourage you, if you have possibility, to obtain a Belarus visa prior to arrival to Belarus.

In case you will be receiving a visa in Minsk airport you **MUST** provide the following upon arrival to Minsk airport:

1. One copy of a duly completed [visa application form](#)

Please have it filled-in in advance, print it and take with you (this will save time). The visa application form is filled out legibly by hand or by using technical means in an official language of the host country of a foreign institution, or in Russian, or in Belarusian, or in English. Answers to the questions of the visa application form must be complete and logically consistent and indicate the real purpose of the trip. The visa application form is signed by the foreign citizen personally. The visa application form for a minor is signed by his or her legal representative.

2. One photograph;

The photograph must meet certain requirements specified in the international standard ISO / IEC 19794-5: size 35x45 mm, full face, against an even light background, high resolution, no corrugation or ink allowed, 70 — 80 percent of the picture placed vertically, 6 months-older photos not accepted.

3. A foreign travel document;

A foreign travel document, submitted by the foreign citizen, must:

- contain a photograph of the owner. In case minors accompanying the foreigner are included into the entry visa, the foreign travel document should contain photographs of those persons;
- have at least two blank pages intended for visas;
- the document shall be valid as long as at least 90 days after the expected date of departure of a foreign citizen from the Republic of Belarus.

A foreign travel document, submitted by the foreign citizen, must not:

- be dubious in terms of authenticity or ownership,
- contain marks, entries, erasures and corrections that are not certified by the competent authorities of the respective foreign state. There must be no torn pages either.

4. Medical insurance contract

concluded with RUE“Belgosstrakh“ or “Beleximgarant“ (can be purchased in airport upon arrival) or medical insurance contract concluded with any foreign insurance organization;

The medical insurance contract with foreign insurance organization must:

- contain the name of a foreign insurance company
- and an indication of its location, telephones of foreign insurance organizations or international assistance services, as well as the surname, first name, middle name (if available) of a foreign citizen;
- be valid at the territory of the Republic of Belarus;
- be valid for a period of temporary stay or temporary residence of foreign citizens in the Republic of Belarus;
- provide the limit of indemnity not less than EUR 10 000. A medical insurance contract with foreign insurance organization can be confirmed by an insurance policy, an insurance card or other document containing the above mentioned information about the medical insurance contract.

Note: as has been mentioned above the insurance can be purchased in Minsk airport in case your insurance is not meeting the requirements above (you can purchase it for USD or EUR, paying with credit card is possible but it's better to have cash. Price is 4 EUR (3-4 days of stay); 6 EUR (5-6 days); 8 EUR (7-8 days); 9 EUR (9-10 days).

5. **Visa support documents** – Invitation letter (printed copy – **see “important note 2”**) issued by the Host Committee (represented by BELLIS – Secretariat of Belarus National Committee in IEC).

Important note 1: According to the procedure in order you could apply a visa in airport, the Host Committee (BELLIS) MUST deliver a copy of your invitation letter to Division for the Admission of Foreigners of the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DAF) in Minsk airport in advance (at least 3 business days prior to arrival).

- Therefore if you haven't done so it so far please fill-in in the questionnaire via the following link https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SMQv4MUn0U_q82VBEUgdCfcT-RqiqExwnnTjT3yocu0 (which was sent out on 18.09.2015). If you cannot open the questionnaire via the link above, please fill-in the questionnaire enclosed and send it to iec@ck.by

- If you filled-in initial version of questionnaire (where there was no question about whether you will be receiving visa in Minsk airport) sent to you on 17.08.2015, please send asap a short e-mail (with the topic: "applying for Belarus visa in Minsk airport" to iec@ck.by specifying your Name and Surname)

Important note 2: Some air-companies may refuse a traveler to embark a plane if you do not have a visa to Belarus in your passport. You should be prepared to answer them that you will be receiving a visa in Minsk airport in according with Belarus procedures (<http://mfa.gov.by/en/visa/airport/>), and that your Invitation Letter has been delivered by Inviting Party to DAF . Usually in case of doubt the air company calls to DAF to check whether your invitation letter has been delivered to the DAF by the Inviting Party (in order you could apply for visa upon arrival). In order to minimize the risks, we will be having a special DAF stamp on your invitation (stating that your invitation letter has been delivered to DAF and that you can apply for visa in Minsk airport) and we will be sending you this Invitation scanned (**please print it and take it with you**). Therefore it is very important that you provide us information about whether you will be receiving a visa in Minsk airport as described under Important Note 1.

Note 3: We would like to remind that it is not possible to receive a Belarus visa in Minsk Airport if a foreign citizen is travelling through Russian airports (Moscow, St. Petersburg, etc.).

6. **Additional documents** required for issuance of an entry visa (at the request of a consular officer).
7. **A confirmation of the consular fee paid.** Please note that the Host Committee is now working with the relevant Ministries of Belarus in order to exempt the Delegates of the 79th IEC General Meeting in Minsk from paying the consular fee. The positive decision should be taken soon (25.09.2015) of which we will publish an update on the www.iec2015.org.

MEDICAL SANITARY CONTROL AT THE BELARUS BORDER

The citizens of the following countries (**Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone**) will be required to provide in Minsk upon arrival the following document, without this document the citizens of above mentioned countries will not be admitted to Belarus: "Document issued by the Competent Authorities (it shall be the English (preferable) or French language) and containing information that the Foreign Citizen has no infection diseases and had no contacts within 21 days with people having infection diseases (including Ebola). This document must have the issue date close to the departure date; but it shall not be older than 3 days from the date of entry to Belarus.