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WORKING PAPER

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From:	Presidency
To:	JHA Counsellors (Migration, Integration, Expulsion)
N° Cion doc.:	10012/16 + ADD 1 - 7
Subject:	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment

Delegations will find attached an updated compromise package on the reform of the Blue Card Directive from the Presidency in view of the informal VTC of the members of the JHA Counsellors (Migration, Integration, Expulsion - Legal Migration) on 12 April 2021.

Discussion paper: updated compromise package on the reform of the Blue Card Directive

On 19 March 2021, the Presidency submitted a compromise package to delegations in view of concluding negotiations on the revision of the Blue Card Directive (WK 3922/2021). This package was supplemented on 24 March 2021 by a discussion paper dealing specifically with the issue of the double status of beneficiaries of international protection (WK 4092/2021). In order to better reflect the substance of the proposals made by the Presidency, a revised version of the compromise package was issued the same day (WK 3922/2021 REV 1).

On 29 March 2021, JHA Counsellors discussed the compromise package for the first time. A majority of delegations, as well as the European Commission, responded positively to the Presidency's proposals and indicated that the compromise package could indeed serve as a good basis for reaching an agreement with the European Parliament. Several delegations also raised a number of issues and made various proposals to further improve the compromise package.

The Presidency would like to take this opportunity to thank delegations for their flexibility and their very constructive input. As previously mentioned, the Presidency believes that there is now a window of opportunity to finally conclude negotiations on this file and reach our shared objective of a new more efficient, more attractive EU Blue Card.

To that end and in view of our meeting on 12 April 2021, the Presidency has revised and updated a number of proposals of the compromise package on the basis of the input provided by delegations. The Presidency believes that the compromise package now addresses the main outstanding issues raised by Member States. The Presidency intends to present this updated compromise package to the European Parliament at technical level on 15 April 2021 and subsequently seek to reach a formal agreement on the main elements of the package during a political trilogue that would be held at the end of April.

Delegations will find attached the updated compromise package (four-column document and consolidated text of the revised directive) which includes changes to the following lines (changes are highlighted in yellow):

Provision	Remarks / modifications
Recitals	14, 14a, 15, 17, 23, 26, 32, 38a, 39a, 43, 45, 46
Article 1	/
Article 2	76, 82
Article 3	99a
Article 4	106, 106a
Article 5	120
Article 6	/
Article 7	139, 148, 148aa,

Article 8	159c
Article 9	165, 165d
Article 10	171
Article 11	175a
Article 12	/
Article 13	186c, 186f, 189
Article 14	/
Article 15	/
Article 16	/
Article 17	230, 231a
Article 18	/
Article 19	/
Article 20	260, 264
Article 21	278
Article 22	284a
Article 23	300, 301, 305
Article 24	307
Article 25	/
Article 26	/
Article 27	/
Article 28	/
Article 29	/
Article 30	/

Four-column table with compromise package

[Presidency compromise proposals 19 March 2021, updated on 7 April 2021 (changes highlighted in yellow)]

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment

	Commission Proposal (doc. 10012/16)	EP Position	Council's text (doc. 10552/17)	Comments / possible compromise suggestions
1.	2016/0176 (COD) Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment	DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment (COM(2016)0378 – C8-0213/2016 – 2016/0176(COD)) (Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)	2016/0176 (COD) Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly [...] qualified employment	
2.	THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,		THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,	

3.	Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular points (a) and (b) of Article 79(2) thereof,		Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular points (a) and (b) of Article 79(2) thereof,	
4.	Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,		Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,	
5.	After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,		After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,	
6.	Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ¹ ,		Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee,	
7.	Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions ² ,		Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions,	
8.	Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,		Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,	
9.	Whereas:		Whereas:	
10.	(1) The Commission's Communication of 3 March 2010 entitled 'Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' ³ sets the objective of the Union becoming an economy based on knowledge and innovation, reducing the administrative burden on companies and better matching	Amendment 1 (1) The Commission's Communication of 3 March 2010 entitled 'Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' ³ sets the objective of the Union	(1) The Commission's Communication of 3 March 2010 entitled 'Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' sets the objective of the Union becoming an	

¹ OJ C , , p. .

² OJ C , , p. .

³ COM(2010) 2020 final

	labour supply with demand. Measures to facilitate the admission of third-country national highly skilled workers have to be seen in that broader context.	becoming an economy based on knowledge and innovation, reducing the administrative burden on companies and better matching labour supply with demand <i>and identifies the need for a comprehensive labour migration policy and for better integration of migrants</i> . Measures to facilitate the admission of third-country national highly skilled workers have to be seen in that broader context.	economy based on knowledge and innovation, reducing the administrative burden on companies and better matching labour supply with demand. Measures to facilitate the admission of third-country national highly [...] qualified workers have to be seen in that broader context.	
11.	(2) The conclusions of the European Council of 26 and 27 June 2014 state that in order to remain an attractive destination for talents and skills, Europe must compete in the global race for talent. Strategies to maximise the opportunities of legal migration should therefore be developed, including the streamlining of existing rules.		(2) The conclusions of the European Council of 26 and 27 June 2014 state that in order to remain an attractive destination for talents and skills, Europe must compete in the global race for talent. Strategies to maximise the opportunities of legal migration should therefore be developed, including the streamlining of existing rules.	
12.	(3) The European Agenda on Migration adopted on 13 May 2015 calls for an attractive EU-wide scheme for highly	Amendment 2 (3) The European Agenda on Migration adopted on 13 May 2015 calls for an	(3) The European Agenda on Migration adopted on 13 May 2015 calls for an attractive	

	qualified third-country nationals, and specifies that a review of Council Directive 2009/50/EC ⁴ is needed to make it more effective in attracting talents to the Union and thereby address both the demographic challenges faced by the Union and labour and skills shortages in key sectors of the Union economy.	attractive EU-wide scheme for highly qualified third-country nationals, and specifies that a review of Council Directive 2009/50/EC ⁴ is needed to make it more effective in attracting talents to the Union and thereby address both the demographic challenges faced by the Union and labour and skills shortages in key sectors of the Union economy, <i>with a view to economic growth and a more competitive Union economy.</i>	EU-wide scheme for highly qualified third-country nationals, and specifies that a review of Council Directive 2009/50/EC is needed to make it more effective in attracting talents to the Union and thereby address both the demographic challenges faced by the Union and labour and skills shortages in key sectors of the Union economy.	
12a		Amendment 3 <i>(3a) The European Parliament, in its resolution of 12 April 2016 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration, noted the flaws in the current EU Blue Card Directive, including the very limited level of harmonisation it has brought about. It called</i>		

⁴ Council Directive 2009/50/EC of 25 May 2009 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment (OJ L 155, 18.6.2009, p.17).

		<i>for an ambitious and targeted review of the Directive, including on the issue of the scope. Moreover, having noted that the current fragmented Union legislative framework regulating the access of third-country nationals to employment in the Union can only contribute to meeting short-term, specific needs, it also called on the Union to establish, in the medium and long term, more general rules governing the entry and residence for third-country nationals seeking employment in the Union, including in low and medium-wage sectors.</i>		
12b		Amendment 4 <i>(3b) The working-age population in the Union is projected to decline by 7,5 million by 2020⁵ and projections on the development of labour market needs in the Union</i>		

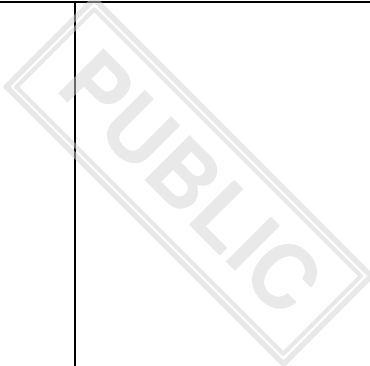
⁵ See Joint EU-OECD Policy Brief “Matching Economic Migration with Labour Market Needs in Europe”, September 2014, p. 5.

		<i>point to emerging and future shortages in specific fields.</i>		
13.	(4) It is necessary to respond to the challenges identified in the implementation report on Directive 2009/50/EC. The Union should aim at establishing a more attractive and effective EU-wide scheme for highly skilled workers. The Union approach on attracting highly skilled workers should be further harmonised and the EU Blue Card should be made the primary tool in that regard with faster procedures, more flexible and inclusive admission criteria, and more extensive rights including more facilitated intra-EU mobility. As this would entail substantial changes to Directive 2009/50/EC, that Directive should therefore be repealed and replaced by a new Directive.	Amendment 5 (4) It is necessary to respond to the challenges identified in the implementation report on Directive 2009/50/EC. The Union should aim at establishing a more attractive and effective EU-wide scheme for highly skilled workers. <i>The revision of Directive 2009/50/EC also provides an opportunity to improve legal migration into Europe.</i> The Union approach on attracting highly skilled workers should be further harmonised and the EU Blue Card should be made the primary tool in that regard with faster procedures, more flexible and inclusive admission criteria, and more extensive rights including more facilitated intra-EU mobility. As this would entail substantial changes	(4) It is necessary to respond to the challenges identified in the implementation report on Directive 2009/50/EC. The Union should aim at establishing a more attractive and effective EU-wide scheme for highly [...] qualified workers. The Union approach on attracting highly [...] qualified workers should be further harmonised and the EU Blue Card should be made the primary tool in that regard with faster procedures, more flexible and inclusive admission criteria, and more extensive rights including more facilitated intra-EU mobility. As this would entail substantial changes to Directive 2009/50/EC, that Directive should therefore be repealed and replaced by a new Directive.	

		to Directive 2009/50/EC, that Directive should therefore be repealed and replaced by a new Directive.		
13a		Amendment 6 <i>(4a) In order to reinforce and promote the EU Blue Card scheme and attract highly skilled workers and facilitate their economic prospects, the embassies and delegations of the Union and Member States in third countries should strengthen advertisement activities and information campaigns concerning the EU Blue Card. They should dispose of sufficient human and financial resources to provide information about the EU Blue Card to third-country nationals on the ground.</i>		
13b		Amendment 7 <i>(4b) According to the Communication of the Commission on the Implementation of Directive 2009/50/EC in</i>		

		<i>2014, only 2,1% of the beneficiaries of the EU Blue Card during the first phase of the implementation in 2012 came from Sub-Saharan Africa. This may indicate implicit racial bias applied preventing certain types of workers to access to some more favourable statuses and therefore enjoying equal treatment with other workers or other family members. The lack of diversity among the EU Blue Card holders may reflect national policies and practices which can perpetuate forms of direct, indirect or institutional discrimination towards new candidates.</i>		
14.	(5) An EU-wide admission system to attract and retain highly skilled workers into the Union should be created. Member States should issue an EU Blue Card instead of a national permit to all applicants falling within the scope of this Directive. Member States should retain the right to issue permits other than EU Blue Card for any purpose of employment to third-	Amendment 8 <i>(5) A clear and transparent</i> EU-wide admission system to attract and retain highly skilled workers into the Union <i>and promote mobility</i> should be created. Member States should issue an EU Blue Card to all applicants	(5) An EU-wide admission system to attract and retain highly [...] qualified workers into the Union should be created. This Directive should be applicable regardless of whether the initial purpose of residence of the third-country	<i>Compromise package:</i> (5) An EU-wide admission system to attract and retain highly qualified workers into the Union should be created. This Directive should be applicable regardless of whether the initial purpose of residence of the third-country national is highly qualified

	country nationals who fall outside of the scope of this Directive, subject to the limitations following from other directives in the area of labour migration.	falling within the scope of this Directive. Member States should retain the right to issue permits other than EU Blue Card for any purpose of employment to third-country nationals who fall outside of the scope of this Directive, subject to the limitations following from other directives in the area of labour migration.	national is highly qualified employment or if he or she resides first on other grounds and changes status towards this purpose subsequently. It is necessary to take into account the priorities, labour market needs and reception capacities of the Member States. This Directive should be without prejudice to the competence of the Member States to maintain or to introduce new national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment. The third-country nationals concerned should have the possibility to apply for an EU Blue Card or for a national residence permit. Moreover, this Directive should not affect the possibility for an EU Blue Card holder to enjoy additional rights and benefits which may be provided by national law, and which are compatible with this Directive.	employment or if he or she resides first on other grounds and changes status towards this purpose subsequently. It is necessary to take into account the priorities, labour market needs and reception capacities of the Member States. This Directive should be without prejudice to the competence of the Member States to maintain or to introduce new national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment. The third-country nationals concerned should have the possibility to apply for an EU Blue Card or for a national residence permit. Moreover, this Directive should not affect the possibility for an EU Blue Card holder to enjoy additional rights and benefits which may be provided by national law, and which are compatible with this Directive. However, Member States should apply a level playing field between the EU Blue Card and such national residence permits, in terms of procedural and equal
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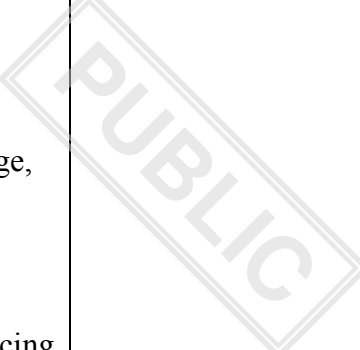
			 treatment rights, procedures and access to information. In particular, Member States should ensure that EU Blue Card holders and their family members do not enjoy a lower level of procedural safeguards and rights than holders of national residence permits. They should also ensure that applicants for an EU Blue Card are not in a less favourable position than applicants for national residence permits with regard to recognition procedures for employers, and that they pay a comparable amount of fees for the handling of their application. Finally, Member States should ensure that the EU Blue Card benefits of the same level of information, promotion and advertisement activities than the national residence permits, for example through information on the national websites on legal migration, information campaigns and training programmes for the competent migration authorities.
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14a		Amendment 9 <i>(5a) In so far as it does not undermine the spirit of this Directive, Member States are encouraged to apply best practices and more favourable provisions in respect of this Directive and in particular in respect of procedural safeguards, fees, temporary unemployment, equal treatment, provisions on family members and long-term residence status for EU Blue Card holders.</i>		<i>Compromise package:</i> (5a) Member States should give effect to this Directive without discrimination on the basis of sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic characteristics, language, religion or beliefs, political or any other opinions, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation in accordance, in particular, with Council Directive 2000/43/EC and Council Directive 2000/78/EC. For the principle of non-discrimination to be effective, EU Blue Card holders should be able to seek legal redress and lodge complaints as provided for by national law, if they face any kind of discrimination, including in the labour market.
14b		Amendment 10 <i>(5b) In that context, consideration should be given to expanding access to the European network</i>		

		<i>of employment services (EURES) so that all the job opportunities in the Member States are also accessible to third-country nationals, since in order to get the “EU Blue Card” permit, those third-country nationals must first have a job offer. Expanding access to EURES would allow third-country nationals to avail themselves of the necessary assistance and support when using the platform.</i>		
15.	(6) The concept of highly <i>skilled</i> worker should replace the concept of highly <i>qualified</i> worker in order to emphasise that both formal educational qualifications and equivalent professional experience should be taken equally into account as criteria for admission. According to a Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012⁶, the validation of learning outcomes, namely competences (knowledge, skills and attitudes)⁷ acquired through non-formal and informal learning can play an important role in enhancing employability	Amendment 11 (shared competence) (6) The concept of highly <i>skilled</i> worker should replace the concept of highly <i>qualified</i> worker in order to emphasise that both formal educational qualifications and equivalent professional experience should be taken equally into account as criteria for admission. According to a Council	<i>deleted</i>	<i>Compromise package:</i> (6) Having regard to the Eurostat report ‘ICT specialists – statistics on hard-to-fill vacancies in enterprises’ of December 2018 and its conclusions regarding a widespread shortage of highly-skilled workers in the ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) sector in the

⁶ Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning ([2012/C 398/01](#)) (OJ C 398, 22.12.2012, p. 1).

⁷ Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning (OJ L 394, 30.12.2006, p. 10).

	and mobility. It recommends Member States to have in place, no later than 2018, arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning. As mechanisms and arrangements for the evaluation and validation of professional experience are not readily available in all Member States, an additional transposition period of two years after the entry into force of this Directive should be provided for the provisions related to recognising professional experience in order to enable Member States, where necessary, to develop such mechanisms and arrangements. Member States' National Contact Points on the EU Blue Card should be involved in effective cooperation with stakeholders and networks in the education, training, employment and youth sectors, as well as other relevant policy areas, for the purpose of recognising professional experience under this Directive.	Recommendation of 20 December 2012⁶, the validation of learning outcomes, namely competences (knowledge, skills and attitudes)⁷ acquired through non-formal and informal learning can play an important role in enhancing employability and mobility. It recommends Member States to have in place, no later than 2018, arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning. As mechanisms and arrangements for the evaluation and validation of professional experience are not readily available in all Member States, <i>the transposition period for this Directive should take account of that factor to enable Member States, where necessary, to develop such mechanisms and arrangements. Member States should consult the social partners when developing [...] such mechanisms and</i>		labour markets of Member States, third-country nationals with higher professional skills in two 'higher' positions: Information and Communications Technology Services Managers (ISCO-08 classification 133) and Information and Communications Technology Professionals (ISCO-08 classification 25) can apply for a EU Blue Card. Considering that a bachelor degree takes 3 years to complete, the relevant period of on-the-job experience should correspond to such a 3-year period. This length of professional experience also appears justified given the fast pace of technological evolution in the ICT sector and the changing needs of employers. The procedure for the assessment of higher professional skills for the purpose of the Blue Card should be left to the Member States. The possibility to extend access to the EU Blue Card to third country nationals with
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		arrangements. Member States' National Contact Points on the EU Blue Card should be involved in effective cooperation with stakeholders and networks in the education, training, employment and youth sectors, as well as other relevant policy areas, for the purpose of recognising professional experience under this Directive.		other occupations on the basis of higher professional skills, will be assessed by the Commission on the basis of the needs of the labour markets.
15a		Amendment 12 <i>(6a) At least until the establishment of such arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning, every applicant should be required to present evidence of professional experience of at least three years such as recommendations of former employees, former working contracts, job references or certificates of employment.</i>	(6a) The concept of highly qualified employment should entail that the person employed not only has a high level of competence, as proven by higher professional qualifications, but also that the job is inherently regarded as demanding such competence. While in the modern labour market a direct link between the qualifications and the job is not always and necessarily required, the tasks and duties related to the highly qualified job should be so specialised and complex	<i>See remarks under Art. 2(b)</i>

			that the required level of competence to perform those duties is usually associated with completion of education programmes and resulting qualifications at ISCED 2011 level 6 (International Standard Classification of Education).	
15b		Amendment 13 <i>(6b) When transposing this Directive and in order to better respond to the needs of the Union labour market, Members States and the Commission should gather data and list the sectors of employment or geographical areas where there are employment shortages or where vacancies are hard to fill and communicate this information publicly.</i>		
15c		Amendment 14 <i>(6c) In respect of the higher education qualifications and higher professional skills of applicants for, or beneficiaries of,</i>		

		<i>international protection residing in the territory of the Union who do not have the necessary documents to prove their qualifications and or professional skills, Member States should be encouraged to establish appropriate skills and knowledge-based assessments that would allow for a determination of their level of qualification and/or professional skills.</i>		
16.	(7) This Directive should not affect the right of the Member States to determine the volumes of admission of third-country nationals coming from third countries to their territory in order to seek work in accordance with Article 79(5) of the Treaty. On that basis, Member States should be able to either consider an application for an EU Blue Card inadmissible or reject it. As Article 79(5) TFEU only refers to third-country nationals coming from third countries, the right to determine volumes of admission does not apply in situations where a third-country national has already been admitted in the territory of Member States under this	Amendment 15 (7) This Directive should not affect the right of the Member States to determine the volumes of admission of third-country nationals coming from third countries to their territory in order to seek work in accordance with Article 79(5) of the Treaty. [...] As Article 79(5) TFEU only refers to third-country nationals coming from third countries, the right to determine volumes of admission does not apply	(7) This Directive should not affect the right of the Member States to determine the volumes of admission of third-country nationals coming from third countries to their territory in order to seek work in accordance with Article 79(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). On that basis, Member States should be able to either consider an application for an EU Blue Card inadmissible or reject it.	

	Directive and is seeking to continue the period of residence in the same or a second Member State.	in situations where a third-country national has already been admitted in the territory of Member States under this Directive and is seeking to continue the period of residence in the same or a second Member State.	[...]	
17.	(8) Beneficiaries of international protection as defined in Article 2(a) of Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁸ have a wide set of rights including labour market access in the Member State having granted them protection. In order to further promote social inclusion of these persons and enhance their labour market opportunities across the Union, those who are highly skilled should be entitled to apply for an EU Blue Card. They should be subject to the same rules as any other third-country national falling within the scope of this Directive, while holding the statuses of beneficiary of international protection and EU Blue Card holder in parallel. However, for reasons of legal clarity and coherence, the provisions on equal treatment and family reunification of this Directive	Amendment 16 (8) Beneficiaries of international protection [...] and certain categories of applicants for international protection have a [...] set of rights including labour market access in the Member State having granted them protection or responsible for their application for international protection. In order to further promote social inclusion of these persons and enhance their labour market opportunities across the Union, those who are highly skilled should be entitled to apply for an EU Blue Card. They	(8) Beneficiaries of international protection as defined in Article 2(a) of Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council have a wide set of rights including labour market access in the Member State having granted them protection. In order to [...] enhance their labour market opportunities across the Union, those who are highly [...] qualified should be entitled to apply for an EU Blue Card in Member States other than the one which granted them protection. In those Member States, they should be subject to the same	Compromise package: (8) Beneficiaries of international protection as defined in Article 2(a) of Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council have a wide set of rights, including labour market access in the Member State having granted them protection. In order to enhance their labour market opportunities across the Union, those who are highly qualified should be entitled to apply for an EU Blue Card in Member States other than the one which granted them protection. In those Member States, they should be subject

⁸ Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted (recast) (OJ L 337, 20.12.2011, p. 9).

	should not apply to this group of EU Blue Card holders in the Member State which granted them international protection. Those rights should remain regulated under the asylum acquis and, where applicable, Council Directive 2003/86/EC⁹.	should be subject to the same rules as any other third-country national falling within the scope of this Directive, while holding the statuses of beneficiary of international protection, <i>or applicant for international protection</i>, and EU Blue Card holder in parallel. However, for reasons of legal clarity and coherence, the provisions on equal treatment and family reunification of this Directive should not apply to [...] <i>refugees who are</i> EU Blue Card holders in the Member State which granted them international protection. Those rights should remain regulated under the asylum acquis and, where applicable, Council Directive 2003/86/EC⁹.	rules as any other third-country national falling within the scope of this Directive, while this Directive should have no impact on their status in the Member State having granted them international protection. In order to support the successful integration of the third-country nationals concerned, a residence period of at least 12 months as a [...] beneficiary of international protection should be required before this Directive becomes applicable to these persons in other Member States. Member States may also decide to apply the provisions of this Directive to beneficiaries of international protection to whom they granted international protection after the same period of 12 months. In such a case, for reasons of legal clarity and coherence, the provisions on equal treatment and family reunification of this Directive	to the same rules as any other third country national falling within the scope of this Directive, while this Directive should have no impact on their status in the Member State having granted them international protection. Beneficiaries of international protection may also apply for an EU Blue Card in the Member State that granted them international protection. In such a case, for reasons of legal clarity and coherence, the provisions on equal treatment and family reunification of this Directive should not apply to them. Those rights should remain regulated under the asylum acquis and, where applicable, Council Directive 2003/86/EC.
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⁹ Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification (OJ L 251, 3.10.2003, p. 12).

			should not apply to [...] them . Those rights should remain regulated under the asylum acquis and, where applicable, Council Directive 2003/86/EC.	
17a		Amendment 17 <i>(8a) Where they fall within the scope of this Directive, applicants for international protection should be subject to the same rules as any other third-country national falling within the scope of this Directive. Where an application for international protection is suspended as a result of the granting of an EU Blue Card, the Member State responsible for that application should not consider the application to be implicitly withdrawn.</i>		
18.	(9) The transfer of responsibility for protection of beneficiaries of international protection is outside the scope of this Directive: the protection status and the rights associated with it should not be	Amendment 18 (9) The transfer of responsibility for protection of beneficiaries of international protection <i>or responsibility for applications for</i>	(9) The transfer of responsibility for protection of beneficiaries of international protection is outside the scope of this Directive: the protection	

	transferred to another Member State on the basis of the issuance of an EU Blue Card.	<i>international protection</i> is outside the scope of this Directive: [...] <i>those statuses</i> and the rights associated with [...] <i>them</i> should not be transferred to another Member State on the basis of the issuance of an EU Blue Card.	status and the rights associated with it should not be transferred to another Member State on the basis of the issuance of an EU Blue Card.	
19.	(10) In order to facilitate the independent intra-EU mobility and business activities of those highly skilled third-country nationals who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement, they should be given access to the EU Blue Card according to the same rules as any other third-country national falling within the scope of this Directive. This should apply regardless of whether or not the Union citizen of reference has exercised the fundamental right to move and reside freely under Article 21 TFEU and regardless of whether the third-country national concerned was first an EU Blue Card holder or a beneficiary of the right to free movement. The rights that these third-country nationals acquire as EU Blue Card holders should be without prejudice to rights they may enjoy under Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ¹⁰ . For reasons of legal clarity and coherence, in terms of family reunification and equal treatment the rules		(10) In order to facilitate the independent intra-EU mobility and business activities of those highly [...] qualified third-country nationals who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement, they should be given access to the EU Blue Card [...] in accordance with the same rules as any other third-country national falling within the scope of this Directive. This entitlement concerns persons enjoying free movement rights based on family ties to a Union citizen in accordance with relevant legislation and it [...] should apply regardless of whether or not the Union citizen of reference has	

¹⁰ Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States (OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 77).

	under Directive 2004/38/EC should prevail. All provisions regarding the beneficiaries of the right to free movement in this Directive should also apply where that right is derived from those third-country nationals who enjoy rights of free movement equivalent to those of Union citizens under agreements either between the Union and its Member States and third countries or between the Union and third countries.		exercised the fundamental right to move and reside freely under Article 21 TFEU and regardless of whether the third-country national concerned was first an EU Blue Card holder or a beneficiary of the right to free movement. Those highly qualified third-country nationals who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement should thus be entitled to engage in highly qualified employment, perform business trips and take up residence in different Member States regardless of whether or not the third-country national accompanies the Union citizen of reference. The rights that these third-country nationals acquire as EU Blue Card holders should be without prejudice to rights they may enjoy under Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. For reasons of legal clarity and coherence, in terms of family reunification and equal treatment the rules	
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			under Directive 2004/38/EC should prevail. All provisions regarding the beneficiaries of the right to free movement in this Directive should also apply where that right is derived from those third-country nationals who enjoy rights of free movement equivalent to those of Union citizens under agreements either between the Union and its Member States and third countries or between the Union and third countries.	
20.	(11) This Directive should not apply to categories of third-country nationals to whom a particular scheme under Union law, with specific entry conditions and sets of rights, applies when the inclusion of those categories in this Directive would go against the rationale of the particular scheme, create unnecessary legal complexity or entail a risk of abuses. This Directive should not apply to third-country nationals who apply to reside in a Member State as researchers in order to carry out a research project, as they fall within the scope of Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council ¹¹	Amendment 19 (11) [...] This Directive should not apply to third-country nationals who apply to reside in a Member State as researchers in order to carry out a research project, as they fall within the scope of Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council ¹¹ which introduces a specific procedure for admitting third-country nationals for the purposes	(11) This Directive should not apply to categories of third-country nationals to whom a particular scheme under Union law, with specific entry conditions and sets of rights, applies when the inclusion of those categories in this Directive would go against the rationale of the particular scheme, create unnecessary legal complexity or entail a risk of abuses. This Directive should not apply to third-	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> (11) This Directive should not apply to categories of third-country nationals to whom a particular scheme under Union law, with specific entry conditions and sets of rights, applies when the inclusion of those categories in this Directive would go against the rationale of the particular scheme, create unnecessary legal complexity or entail a risk of abuses. This Directive should not apply to third-

¹¹ Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (OJ L 132, 21.05.2016, p. 21).

	which introduces a specific procedure for admitting third-country nationals for the purposes of scientific research. However, once admitted under Directive (EU) 2016/801, legally residing researchers should be entitled to apply for an EU Blue Card under this Directive for other purposes than those covered under Directive (EU) 2016/801.	of scientific research. However, once admitted under Directive (EU) 2016/801, legally residing researchers should be entitled to apply for an EU Blue Card under this Directive for other purposes than those covered under Directive (EU) 2016/801. <i>Equally, legally residing EU Blue Card holders should be entitled to apply to reside as researchers under Directive (EU) 2016/801. The provisions of that Directive should be clarified so as to ensure such a possibility.</i>	country nationals who apply to reside in a Member State as researchers in order to carry out a research project, as they fall within the scope of Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council which introduces a specific procedure for admitting third-country nationals for the purposes of scientific research. However, once admitted under Directive (EU) 2016/801, legally residing researchers should be entitled to apply for an EU Blue Card under this Directive for other purposes than those covered under Directive (EU) 2016/801. While persons who apply to be admitted to the EU as intra-corporate transferees cannot apply for an EU Blue Card, intra-corporate transferees legally residing in the EU should be entitled to apply for an EU Blue Card under this Directive for other purposes than those covered under Directive 2014/66/EU.	country nationals who apply to reside in a Member State as researchers in order to carry out a research project, as they fall within the scope of Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council which introduces a specific procedure for admitting third-country nationals for the purposes of scientific research. However, legally residing third-country nationals admitted under Directive EU 2016/801 should be entitled to apply for an EU Blue Card under this Directive. Equally, legally residing EU Blue Card holders should be entitled to apply to reside as researchers under Directive 2016/801. In order to ensure such a possibility, Directive 2016/801 should be amended accordingly. once admitted under Directive (EU) 2016/801, legally residing researchers should be entitled to apply for an EU Blue Card under this Directive for other purposes
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				than those covered under Directive (EU) 2016/801.
20a				<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> (11a) While this Directive should not apply to third-country nationals who apply to be admitted to the EU as intra-corporate transferees pursuant to Directive 2014/66/EU, intra-corporate transferees legally residing in the EU should be entitled to apply for an EU Blue Card under this Directive for other purposes than those covered under Directive 2014/66/EU.
21.	12) This Directive should not affect the possibility for an EU Blue Card holder to enjoy additional rights and benefits which may be provided by national law, and which are compatible with this Directive.		(12) This Directive should not affect the possibility for an EU Blue Card holder to enjoy additional rights and benefits which may be provided by national law, and which are compatible with this Directive.	
22.	(13) It is necessary to provide for a flexible demand-driven admission system based on objective criteria, such as a work contract or a binding job offer of at least 6 months, a	Amendment 20 (13) It is necessary to provide for a flexible [...], clear and balanced admission system based on	(13) It is necessary to provide for a flexible demand-driven admission system based on objective criteria, such as a	

	salary threshold adaptable by the Member States to the situation in its labour market and higher professional qualifications.	objective criteria, such as a work contract or a binding job offer of at least [...] nine months, compliance with the applicable laws, collective agreements or national practices in the relevant occupational branches, a salary threshold adaptable by the Member States to the situation in its labour market and higher education qualifications or higher professional skills.	work contract or a binding job offer of at least 6 months, a salary threshold adaptable by the Member States to the situation in its labour market and higher professional qualifications.	
23.	(14) This Directive is without prejudice to national procedures on the recognition of diplomas. In order to evaluate if the third-country national concerned possesses higher education or equivalent qualifications, reference should be made either to ISCED (International Standard Classification of Education) 2011 levels 6, 7 and 8, or to the broadly equivalent EQF (European Qualifications Framework) levels 6, 7 and 8, according to the choice of the Member State concerned.	(shared competence)	(14) This Directive is without prejudice to national procedures on the recognition of diplomas. In order to evaluate if the third-country national concerned possesses higher education or equivalent qualifications, reference should be made to ISCED [...]. Member States are encouraged to facilitate the recognition of documents attesting the relevant higher education qualifications.	<i>Compromise package:</i> (14) This Directive is without prejudice to national procedures on the recognition of diplomas. In order to evaluate if the third-country national concerned possesses higher education or equivalent qualifications, reference should be made to ISCED (International Standard Classification of Education) 2011 levels 6, 7 and 8, or to the broadly equivalent EQF (European Qualifications Framework) levels 6, 7 and 8, according to the choice of the Member State concerned.

				Member States are encouraged to facilitate the recognition of documents attesting the relevant higher education qualifications
24.	(15) In order to ensure a sufficient level of harmonisation in the admission conditions throughout the Union, both minimum and maximum factors for calculating the salary threshold should be determined. Member States should fix their threshold in accordance with the situation and organisation of their respective labour markets and their general immigration policies.	Amendment 21 (shared competence) (15) <i>In addition to the [...] conditions [...] laid down in this Directive, when transposing it, Member States should establish a salary threshold in agreement with the social partners. That salary threshold should be at least 1.0 times but not higher than 1.4 times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned. Member States [...] could, in agreement with the social partners, decide not to establish a salary threshold in [...] certain occupational branches where it is agreed that such a threshold is unnecessary. Such may be the case, where a collective agreement governs the</i>	(15) In order to ensure a sufficient level of harmonisation in the admission conditions throughout the Union, both a [...] lower and [...] upper factors for [...] the salary threshold should be determined. The lower and upper limit for setting the national salary threshold should be determined by multiplying these factors with the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned. A salary threshold should be chosen within the range of the lower and upper limit. This salary threshold should set out the minimum salary which a Blue Card holder should earn. Therefore, in order to be admitted under this Directive, applicants should	

		<i>wages which apply in that occupational branch. The principle of equal treatment with workers who are nationals of the host Member State should be respected.</i>	earn a salary which is equal to or greater than the salary threshold chosen by the Member State concerned.	
25.	(16) A lower salary threshold should be laid down for specific professions where it is considered by the Member State concerned that there is a particular lack of available workforce and where such professions belong to major group 1 or 2 of the ISCO ("International Standard Classification of Occupation") classification.	Amendment 22 (shared competence) <i>deleted</i>	(16) [...] Member States should be able to provide a lower salary threshold for specific professions where it is considered by the Member State concerned that there is a particular lack of available workforce and where such professions belong to major group 1 or 2 of the ISCO ("International Standard Classification of Occupation") classification.	
26.	(17) A lower salary threshold should also be laid down to benefit third-country nationals during a certain period after their graduation. This period should be granted each time that the third-country national reaches a level of education relevant for the purposes of this Directive, namely levels 6, 7 or 8 of ISCED 2011, or levels 6, 7 or 8 of EQF, according to the national law of the Member State concerned. It should apply	Amendment 23 (shared competence) <i>deleted</i>	(17) Member States should be able to provide a lower salary threshold [...] to benefit third-country nationals during a certain period after their graduation. This period should be granted each time that the third-country national reaches a level of education relevant	<i>Compromise package:</i> (17) Member States should be able to provide a lower salary threshold [...] to benefit third-country nationals during a certain period after their graduation. This period should be granted each time that the third-country national reaches a level of education relevant for the purposes of

	whenever the third-country national applies for an initial or renewed EU Blue Card within three years from the date of obtaining the qualifications and in addition, when that third-country national applies for a first renewal of the EU Blue Card and the initial EU Blue Card was issued for a period shorter than 24 months. After these grace periods – which may run in parallel – have elapsed the young professionals can be reasonably expected to have gained sufficient professional experience in order to fulfil the regular salary threshold.		for the purposes of this Directive, namely levels 6, 7 or 8 of ISCED 2011 [...] according to the national law of the Member State concerned. It should apply whenever the third-country national applies for an initial or renewed EU Blue Card within three years from the date of obtaining the qualifications and in addition, when that third-country national applies for a renewal of the EU Blue Card and a period of 24 months has not elapsed since the issuance of the initial EU Blue Card [...]. After these grace periods – which may run in parallel – have elapsed the young professionals can be reasonably expected to have gained sufficient professional experience in order to fulfil the regular salary threshold.	this Directive, namely levels 6, 7 or 8 of ISCED 2011 or EQF levels 6, 7 and 8, according to the national law of the Member State concerned. It should apply whenever the third-country national applies for an initial or renewed EU Blue Card within three years from the date of obtaining the qualifications and in addition, when that third-country national applies for a renewal of the EU Blue Card and a period of 24 months has not elapsed since the issuance of the initial EU Blue Card [...]. After these grace periods – which may run in parallel – have elapsed the young professionals can be reasonably expected to have gained sufficient professional experience in order to fulfil the regular salary threshold.
27.	(18) The conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment, including the eligibility criteria related to a salary threshold should be defined. It should not aim to determine salaries and therefore should not derogate from the rules or practices at Member State level or from	(EMPL)	(18) The conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly [...] qualified employment, including the eligibility criteria related to a salary threshold should be defined.	

	collective agreements, and should not be used to constitute any harmonisation in this field. This Directive should fully respect the competences of Member States, particularly on employment, labour and social matters.		The salary threshold set by the Member State [...] should not aim to determine salaries and therefore should not derogate from the rules or practices at Member State level or from collective agreements, and should not be used to constitute any harmonisation in this field. The salary offered for a specific job should be freely determined between the employer and the applicant while respecting the applicable salary threshold and the applicable labour laws, collective agreements and practices in the Member States concerned. The salary paid should not be lower than the applicable threshold and it should be in line with the applicable labour laws, collective agreements and practices in the Member State concerned, but it may be higher, in line with market conditions. This Directive should fully respect the competences of Member States, particularly on	
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			employment, labour and social matters.	
27a				<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> (18a) Member States should be able to require the third-country national to provide for his or her address at the time of application. In case the third-country national does not yet know his or her future address, Member States should accept a temporary address, which could be the address of the employer.
28.	(19) It should not be necessary for a third-country national to hold a travel document whose validity covers the whole duration of the initial EU Blue Card. Third-country nationals should be allowed to renew their travel document while holding an EU Blue Card.		<i>deleted</i>	
29.	(20) Member States should reject applications for an EU Blue Card and be allowed to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card if there is a threat to public policy, public security or public health. Any rejection on grounds of public policy or public security should be based on the individual behaviour of the person	Amendment 24 (20) Member States should <i>be entitled to</i> reject applications for an EU Blue Card and be allowed to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card [...] <i>where</i> there is a <i>proven</i> threat to public policy,	(20) Member States should reject applications for an EU Blue Card and be allowed to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card if there is a threat to public policy, public security or public health. Any rejection on grounds of	<i>Compromise package:</i> (20) Member States should reject applications for an EU Blue Card and be allowed to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card if there is a threat to public policy, public security or public health. A threat to public health is to

	concerned, in accordance with the principle of proportionality. Illness or disability suffered after the third-country national was admitted to the territory of the first Member State should not constitute the sole ground for withdrawing or refusing to renew an EU Blue Card or for not issuing an EU Blue Card in a second Member State.	public security or public health. Any rejection on grounds of public policy or public security should be based on the individual behaviour of the person concerned, in accordance with the principle of proportionality. Illness or disability suffered [...] <i>while</i> the third-country national [...] <i>is an EU Blue Card holder</i> should not constitute [...] <i>a</i> ground for withdrawing an EU Blue Card. [...]	public policy or public security should be based on the individual behaviour of the person concerned, in accordance with the principle of proportionality. Member States should ensure that checks conducted on EU Blue Card holder and on his employer in relation to withdrawal or non-renewal of the EU Blue Card should not be disproportionate. Illness or disability suffered after the third-country national was admitted to the territory of the first Member State should not constitute the sole ground for withdrawing or refusing to renew an EU Blue Card or for not issuing an EU Blue Card in a second Member State. Moreover, Member States should have the possibility not to withdraw or not to refuse to renew an EU Blue Card, where the applicable salary threshold is temporarily not attained due to illness, disability or parental leave.	be understood in line with Regulation (EU) 2016/399. Any rejection on grounds of public policy or public security should be based on the individual behaviour of the person concerned, in accordance with the principle of proportionality. Member States should retain the right to verify that the grounds for withdrawal or non-renewal set out in Article 7(1) and (2) do not apply. Member States should ensure that checks conducted on EU Blue Card holder and on his employer in relation to withdrawal or non-renewal of the EU Blue Card should not be disproportionate. Illness or disability suffered after the third-country national was admitted to the territory of the first Member State should not constitute the sole ground for withdrawing or refusing to renew an EU Blue Card or for not issuing an EU Blue Card in a second Member State. Moreover, Member States should have the possibility not to withdraw or not to
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				refuse to renew an EU Blue Card, where the applicable salary threshold is temporarily not attained due to illness, disability or parental leave. <i>The last sentence of the recital has been agreed between the EP and the Council.</i>
30.	(21) Member States should be allowed to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card where the EU Blue Card holder has either failed to comply with the conditions for mobility under this Directive or has repetitively exercised the mobility rights in an abusive manner, for example by applying for EU Blue Cards in second Member States and beginning employment immediately while it is clear that the conditions will not be fulfilled and the application will be refused.	Amendment 25 (21) Member States should be allowed to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card where the EU Blue Card holder has failed to comply with the conditions for mobility under this Directive [...].	(21) Member States should be allowed to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card where the EU Blue Card holder has either failed to comply with the conditions for mobility under this Directive or has [...] exercised [...] his or her mobility rights in an abusive manner, for example by applying for an EU Blue Cards in a second Member States and beginning employment immediately while it is clear that the conditions will not be fulfilled and the application will be refused.	<i>Linked to Art. 7(2)(f), line 146</i> <i>Compromise package:</i> (21) Member States should be allowed to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card where the EU Blue Card holder has failed to comply with the conditions for mobility under this Directive, including the use of mobility rights in an abusive manner, for example by not respecting the period allowed for carrying out a business activity or by not submitting an application for long-term mobility within the requested time frame in second Member States, or by applying for an EU Blue Card in a second

				Member State and beginning employment immediately while it is clear that the conditions will not be fulfilled and the application will be refused.
31.	(22) Any decision to reject an application for an EU Blue Card or to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card should take into consideration the specific circumstances of the case and respect the principle of proportionality. In particular, where the ground for rejection is related to the activity of the employer, a minor misconduct should not in any case constitute the sole ground for rejecting an application or withdrawing or refusing to renew the permit.	Amendment 26 (22) Any decision to reject an application for an EU Blue Card or to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card should take into consideration the specific circumstances of the case and [...] be proportionate . In particular, where the ground for rejection, withdrawal or refusal to renew is related to the [...] conduct of the employer, [...] minor misconduct of the employer should not in any case constitute the sole ground for rejecting an application or withdrawing or refusing to renew the permit.	(22) Any decision to reject an application for an EU Blue Card or to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card should take into consideration the specific circumstances of the case and respect the principle of proportionality. In particular, where the ground for rejection is related to the activity of the employer, [...] minor misconduct should not in any case constitute the sole ground for rejecting an application or withdrawing or refusing to renew the permit.	
32.	(23) Once all the conditions for admission are fulfilled, Member States should issue an EU Blue Card within specified time limits. If a Member State issues residence permits only on its territory and all the conditions		(23) Once all the conditions for admission are fulfilled, Member States should issue an EU Blue Card within specified time limits. If a	Compromise package: (23) Once all the conditions for admission are fulfilled, Member States should issue

	of this Directive relating to admission are fulfilled, the Member State should grant the third-country national concerned the requisite visa. It should be ensured that the competent authorities effectively cooperate in order to issue the visa without delay.		Member State issues residence permits only on its territory and all the conditions of this Directive relating to admission are fulfilled, the Member State should grant the third-country national [...] every facility to obtain the requisite visa. It should be ensured that the competent authorities effectively cooperate for that purpose. In the event that the Member State does not [...] issue visas, it should grant the third-country national concerned an equivalent permit allowing entry.	an EU Blue Card within specified time limits. If a Member State issues residence permits only on its territory and all the conditions of this Directive relating to admission are fulfilled, the Member State should grant the third-country national concerned the requisite visa. It should be ensured that the competent authorities effectively cooperate for that purpose. In the event that the Member State does not [...] issue visas, it should grant the third-country national concerned an equivalent permit allowing entry.
33.	(24) The rules on processing times for EU Blue Card applications should guarantee the swift issuance of permits in all cases. The processing time for examining the application for an EU Blue Card should not include the time required for the recognition of professional qualifications, where applicable, or the time required for issuing a visa, if required.	Amendment 27 (24) The rules on processing times for EU Blue Card applications should [...] <i>reflect the objective of facilitating the admission of highly skilled third-country nationals.</i> The processing time for examining the application for an EU Blue Card should not include the time required for the recognition	(24) The rules on processing times for EU Blue Card applications should guarantee the swift issuance of permits in all cases. The processing time for examining the application for an EU Blue Card should not include the time required for the recognition of professional qualifications, where applicable, or the time	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> (24) The rules on processing times for EU Blue Card applications should guarantee the swift issuance of permits in all cases. The processing time for examining the application for an EU Blue Card should not include the time required for the recognition of professional qualifications, where

		of professional qualifications, where applicable, or the time required for issuing a visa, if required. <i>To modernise and simplify the EU Blue Card application procedure, Member States should consider accepting electronic applications.</i>	required for issuing a visa, if required.	applicable, or the time required for issuing a visa, if required. In case the validity of the EU Blue Card expires during the procedure for renewal, the third-country national should be entitled, until the decision on the application is taken by the competent authorities, to stay, work and enjoy the rights provided for under this Directive in the territory of the Member State which issued the EU Blue Card, but not the right to mobility to a second Member State.
33a.				<i>Compromise package:</i> <i>(24a) Where a Member State has determined that an application for an EU Blue Card is to be made by the employer, it should not restrict the procedural safeguards enjoyed by the third-country national seeking the EU Blue Card during the application procedure, or the rights enjoyed by the EU Blue Card holder during the period of employment or the EU Blue Card renewal procedure.</i>

34.	(25) The format of the EU Blue Card should be in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 ¹² , thus enabling the Member States to refer in particular to the information on the conditions under which the person is permitted to work.		(25) The format of the EU Blue Card should be in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 ¹³ , thus enabling the Member States to refer in particular to the information on the conditions under which the person is permitted to work. Member States should be able to indicate additional information in paper format or store such information in electronic format, as referred to in Article 4 of that Regulation and point a(16) of the Annex thereto, in order to provide more precise information on the employment activity concerned. The provision of this additional information should be optional for Member States and should not constitute an additional requirement that would compromise the single permit and the single application procedure.	
35.		Amendment 28		

¹² Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 of 13 June 2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals (OJ L 157, 15.6.2002, p. 1).

¹³ Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 of 13 June 2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals (OJ L 157, 15.6.2002, p. 1).

	(26) The Member State concerned should ensure that applicants have the right to challenge before a court or tribunal any decision rejecting an application for an EU Blue Card, or not renewing or withdrawing an EU Blue Card. This is without prejudice to the possibility to designate an administrative authority to carry out a prior administrative review of such decisions.	(26) The Member State concerned should ensure that applicants have the right to challenge before a court or tribunal a decision rejecting an application for an EU Blue Card, or [...] a decision not to renew or to withdraw an EU Blue Card. [...] Member States might also designate an administrative authority to carry out a prior administrative review of such decisions.	(26) The Member State concerned should ensure that applicants have the right to challenge before a court or tribunal any decision rejecting an application for an EU Blue Card, or not renewing or withdrawing an EU Blue Card. This is without prejudice to the possibility to designate an administrative authority to carry out a prior administrative review of such decisions.	
36.	(27) Since EU Blue Card holders are highly skilled workers contributing to addressing labour and skills shortages in key sectors, the principle of access to the labour market should be the general rule. However, in circumstances where the domestic labour market undergoes serious disturbances such as a high level of unemployment in a given occupation or sector, which may be limited to particular regions or other parts of the territory, a Member State should be able to take into account the situation of its labour market before issuing an EU Blue Card.	Amendment 29 (27) Since EU Blue Card holders are highly skilled workers contributing to addressing labour and skills shortages in key sectors, the principle of access to the labour market should be the general rule. [...] In circumstances where the domestic labour market [...] suffers a high level of unemployment in a given occupation or sector, which may be limited to particular regions or other parts of the territory, a Member State should, after	(27) Since the EU Blue Card [...] scheme is motivated by the need to address labour and skills shortages in key sectors [...] in the EU labour market [...], Member States should be able to check whether a vacancy which a Blue Card applicant intends to fill could instead be filled by a member of the national or Union workforce, by third-country nationals lawfully resident in the Member State and already forming part of its labour market by virtue of Union	

		<i>consulting with social partners</i>, be able to take into account the situation of its labour market before issuing an EU Blue Card.	or national law, or by EU long-term residents wishing to move to that Member State for highly qualified employment in accordance with Chapter III of the Directive 2003/109/EC. In case Member States decide to make use of this possibility, they should communicate this in a clear, accessible and transparent way to applicants and employers, including online. For EU Blue Cards in a second Member State, taking into account the situation of the labour market should only be possible if that Member State has also introduced checks for first applications for third-country nationals coming from third countries.	
37.	(28) In case Member States decide to make use of this possibility for a given occupation or sector, possibly in a particular part of their territory, they should send a notification to the Commission hereof, explaining the economic, social and other reasons justifying the decision to	Amendment 30 (28) In [...] <i>the event that a</i> Member [...] <i>State decides</i> to make use of this possibility for a given occupation or sector, possibly in a particular part of their territory, <i>it</i> should	<i>deleted</i>	

	introduce such labour market test for the next 12 months and do so again for every subsequent 12 month period. Member States may involve social partners in the assessment of the circumstances related to the domestic labour market. This verification should not be possible when an EU Blue Card is renewed in the first Member State. For EU Blue Cards in a second Member State, taking into account the situation of the labour market should only be possible if that Member State has also introduced checks for first applications for third-country nationals coming from third countries and after a separate justified notification. In case Member States decide to make use of this possibility, they should communicate this in a clear, accessible and transparent way to applicants and employers, including online.	send a notification to the Commission hereof, explaining the economic, social and other reasons justifying the decision to introduce such labour market test for the next six months and do so again for every subsequent six month period. Member States [...] should involve social partners in the assessment of the circumstances related to the domestic labour market. This [...] labour market test should not be possible [...] where an EU Blue Card [...] holder seeks to renew his or her EU Blue Card in the first Member State. [...] Where a third-country national notifies a second Member State of his or her intention to take up work in that Member State, taking into account the situation of the labour market when objecting to such a notification should only be possible if that Member State has also introduced checks for first		
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		applications for third-country nationals coming from third countries and after a separate justified notification. In case Member States decide to make use of this possibility, they should communicate this in a clear, accessible and transparent way to applicants and employers, including online.		
38.	(29) In implementing this Directive, Member States should refrain from pursuing active recruitment in developing countries in sectors suffering from a lack of personnel. Ethical recruitment policies and principles applicable to public and private sector employers should be developed in key sectors, for example the health sector. This is consistent with EU's commitment to the 2010 WHO Global Code on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel ¹⁴ in addition to the Council and Member States' conclusions of 14 May 2007 on the European Programme for Action to tackle the critical shortage of health workers in developing countries (2007-2013) and the education sector, as	Amendment 31 (29) In implementing this Directive, Member States should refrain from pursuing active recruitment in developing countries in sectors suffering from a lack of personnel <i>in key sectors essential for sustainable development.</i> Ethical recruitment policies and principles applicable to public and private sector employers should be developed in key sectors, for example the health sector. This is consistent with EU's commitment to	(29) In implementing this Directive, Member States should refrain from pursuing active recruitment in developing countries in sectors suffering from a lack of personnel. Ethical recruitment policies and principles applicable to public and private sector employers should be developed in key sectors, for example the health sector. This is consistent with EU's commitment to the 2010 WHO Global Code on the International Recruitment of	

¹⁴ The [WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel](#), adopted on 21 May 2010 by the Sixty-third World Health Assembly in [resolution WHA63.16](#).

	appropriate. These principles and policies should be strengthened by the development and application of mechanisms, guidelines and other tools to facilitate, as appropriate, circular and temporary migration, as well as other measures that would minimise negative and maximise positive impacts of highly skilled immigration on developing countries in order to turn "brain drain" into "brain gain".	the 2010 WHO Global Code on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel ¹⁴ in addition to the Council and Member States' conclusions of 14 May 2007 on the European Programme for Action to tackle the critical shortage of health workers in developing countries (2007-2013) and the education sector, as appropriate. These principles and policies should be strengthened by the development and application of mechanisms, guidelines and other tools to facilitate, as appropriate, circular and temporary migration, as well as other measures that would minimise negative and maximise positive impacts of highly skilled immigration on developing countries in order to turn "brain drain" into "brain gain".	Health Personnel ¹⁴ in addition to the Council and Member States' conclusions of 14 May 2007 on the European Programme for Action to tackle the critical shortage of health workers in developing countries (2007-2013) and the education sector, as appropriate. These principles and policies should be strengthened by the development and application of mechanisms, guidelines and other tools to facilitate, as appropriate, circular and temporary migration, as well as other measures that would minimise negative and maximise positive impacts of highly [...] qualified immigration on developing countries in order to turn "brain drain" into "brain gain".	
38a			(29a) In accordance with the principle of proportionality, the level of fees required by	Compromise package: <i>Delete recital 29a (covered in line 14)</i>

			Member States for the processing of EU Blue Card applications should not be disproportionate or excessive. The level at which these fees are set may take into account the services actually provided for the processing of applications and the issuance of permits, but the level which these fees are set must not have either the object or the effect of creating an obstacle to the obtaining of the status conferred by this Directive.	
39.	(30) A simplified procedure for employers which have been recognised for that purpose should be provided, optional for Member States. The status of recognised employer should bring specific facilitation in terms of procedures and admission conditions – amounting to a <i>simplified procedure</i> – under this Directive and Member States should include sufficient safeguards against abuse. Where the status of recognised employer is withdrawn during the period of validity of an EU Blue Card issued under the simplified procedure, regular admission conditions should apply upon renewing that EU Blue Card, unless	Amendment 32 (30) A simplified procedure for employers which have been recognised for that purpose should be provided [...]. The status of recognised employer should bring specific facilitation in terms of procedures and admission conditions – amounting to a simplified procedure – under this Directive and Member States should include sufficient safeguards	(30) A simplified procedure for employers which have been recognised for that purpose should be provided, optional for Member States. The status of recognised employer should bring specific facilitation in terms of procedures and admission conditions – amounting to a <i>simplified procedure</i> – under this Directive and Member States should include sufficient safeguards against abuse. In accordance with	

	the third-country national concerned is employed by another recognised employer.	against abuse. Where the status of recognised employer is withdrawn during the period of validity of an EU Blue Card issued under the simplified procedure, regular admission conditions should apply upon renewing that EU Blue Card, unless the third-country national concerned is employed by another recognised employer.	the principle of proportionality, these safeguards must take into account the gravity and nature of the misconduct. Where the status of recognised employer is withdrawn during the period of validity of an EU Blue Card issued under the simplified procedure, regular admission conditions should apply upon renewing that EU Blue Card, unless the third-country national concerned is employed by another recognised employer.	
39a.				<i>Compromise package:</i> (30a) In order to avoid a circumvention of the criteria for admission, Member States should be allowed to impose that, during the first twelve months of legal employment as an EU Blue Card holder, a change of employer or other significant changes, be subject to a communication, including a check of the labour market situation. Nevertheless, this procedure should not amount to a full re-examination of the

				authorisation procedure for first entry, and be limited to an assessment of the aspects that have changed.
40.	(31) In order to promote innovative entrepreneurship, third-country nationals admitted under this Directive should be given the right to exercise in parallel a self-employed activity without it affecting the right of residence as an EU Blue Card holder. This right should be without prejudice to the continuous obligation to meet the conditions for admission under this Directive, and the EU Blue Card holder should therefore remain in highly skilled employed activity.	Amendment 33 (EMPL) (31) In order to promote innovative entrepreneurship, third-country nationals admitted under this Directive should be given the right to exercise in parallel a self-employed activity <i>under the same conditions as nationals and other Union citizens in the Member State which issued the EU Blue Card,</i> without it affecting the right of residence as an EU Blue Card holder. This right should be without prejudice to the continuous obligation to meet the conditions for admission under this Directive, and the EU Blue Card holder should therefore remain in highly skilled employed activity. <i>Any self-employed activity by EU Blue Card holders should be subsidiary to their</i>	(31) In order to promote innovative entrepreneurship, third-country nationals admitted under this Directive[...] may be given the [...] possibility to exercise in parallel a self-employed activity without it affecting the right of residence as an EU Blue Card holder. This should be without prejudice to the continuous obligation to meet the conditions for admission under this Directive, and the EU Blue Card holder should therefore remain in highly [...] qualified employed activity. Member States should have the possibility to lay down in their national law the conditions for access to self-employed activity. Member States should also be entitled to limit the scope of allowed self-employed activity. Any income derived from self-	

		<i>employment under the EU Blue Card.</i>	employment will not contribute towards meeting the salary threshold required to qualify as an EU Blue Card holder.	
40a			(31a) In order to enhance the contribution that the EU Blue Card holder may make through his higher professional qualifications, Member States should also have the possibility to lay down in their national law provisions allowing EU Blue Card holders to engage in other professional activities which are complementary to their main activity as an EU Blue Card holder. Any income derived from these professional activities will not contribute towards meeting the salary threshold required to qualify as an EU Blue Card holder.	
41.	(32) Equal treatment as granted to EU Blue Card holders should include equal treatment in respect of those branches of social security listed in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the	(EMPL)	(32) Equal treatment as granted to EU Blue Card holders should include equal treatment in respect of those branches of social security listed in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No	<i>Compromise package:</i> (32) Equal treatment as granted to EU Blue Card holders should include equal treatment in respect of those branches of social security

	European Parliament and of the Council ¹⁵ . This Directive does not harmonise the social security legislation of Member States. It is limited to applying the principle of equal treatment in the field of social security to the third-country nationals falling within its scope.		883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council. This Directive does not harmonise the social security legislation of Member States. It is limited to applying the principle of equal treatment in the field of social security to the third-country nationals falling within its scope. This Directive should not grant rights in relation to situations which lie outside the scope of Union law and the situation of family members residing in a third country. That should not, however, affect the right of survivors who derive rights from EU Blue Card holders to receive pensions, under the same conditions as nationals of the Member State concerned, when residing in a third country.	listed in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council. This Directive does not harmonise the social security legislation of Member States. It is limited to applying the principle of equal treatment in the field of social security to the third-country nationals falling within its scope.
42.	(33) In the event of mobility between Member States, Regulation (EU) No 1231/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council ¹⁶ applies. This Directive should not confer more rights to the mobile	(EMPL)	(33) In the event of mobility between Member States, Regulation (EU) No 1231/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council	

¹⁵ Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the coordination of social security systems (OJ L 166, 30.4.2004, p. 1).

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) No 1231/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 extending Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 and Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 to nationals of third countries who are not already covered by these Regulations solely on the ground of their nationality (OJ L 344, 29.12.2010, p. 1).

	EU Blue Card holder than those already provided for in existing Union law in the field of social security for third-country nationals who have cross-border interests between Member States.		applies. This Directive should not confer more rights to the mobile EU Blue Card holder than those already provided for in existing Union law in the field of social security for third-country nationals who have cross-border interests between Member States.	
43.	(34) Professional qualifications acquired by a third-country national in another Member State should be recognised in the same way as those of Union citizens. Qualifications acquired in a third country should be taken into account in accordance with Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ¹⁷ . Where a third-country national is applying for an EU Blue Card to practice an unregulated profession, Member States should avoid excessive formal requirements and full recognition procedures regarding qualifications, wherever sufficient evidence can be otherwise obtained.	Amendment 34 (shared competence) (34) [...] Education qualifications, professional skills and professional experience acquired by a third-country national in another Member State should be recognised in the same way as those of Union citizens. Qualifications acquired in a third country should be taken into account in accordance with Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ¹⁶ . Where a third-country national is applying for an EU Blue Card to practice an unregulated profession,	(34) Professional qualifications acquired by a third-country national in another Member State should be recognised in the same way as those of Union citizens. Qualifications acquired in a third country should be taken into account in accordance with Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ¹⁷ . [...] This Directive should be without prejudice to the conditions set out under national law for the exercise of regulated professions, existing national restrictions on access to employment which entails involvement in the	(34) Professional qualifications acquired by a third-country national in another Member State should be recognised in the same way as those of Union citizens. Qualifications acquired in a third country should be taken into account in accordance with Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ¹⁷ . [...] This Directive should be without prejudice to the conditions set out under national law for the exercise of regulated professions. It should also not prevent Member States from maintaining existing national restrictions on

¹⁷ Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications (OJ L 255, 30.9.2005, p. 22).

		Member States should avoid excessive formal requirements and full recognition procedures regarding qualifications, wherever sufficient evidence can be otherwise obtained.	exercise of public authority and the responsibility for safeguarding the general interest of the State, and existing national rules on activities reserved to nationals, Union citizens or EEA citizens, including in case of mobility to other Member States.	access to employment which entails involvement in the exercise of public authority and the responsibility for safeguarding the general interest of the State, and existing national rules on activities reserved to nationals, Union citizens or EEA citizens, including in case of mobility to other Member States, which existed at the time of the entry force of the Directive.
43a		Amendment 35 (shared competence) <i>(34a) Many third-country nationals have appropriate skills and qualifications, but they are usually acquired in different labour markets and education systems. Thus, Member States and employers need to focus on improving the procedures and methods for recognizing and accrediting training, skills and qualifications previously acquired by third-country nationals.</i>		
44.		Amendment 36		

	(35) The rights acquired by a beneficiary of international protection as an EU Blue Card holder should be without prejudice to rights enjoyed by the person concerned under Directive 2011/95/EU and under the Geneva Convention in the Member State which granted the protection status. In that Member State, in order to avoid situations of conflicting rules, the provisions on equal treatment and family reunification of this Directive should not apply. Persons who are beneficiaries of international protection in one Member State and EU Blue Card holders in another should enjoy the same rights including equality of treatment with nationals of the Member State of residence as any other EU Blue Card holders in the latter Member State.	(35) The rights acquired by a beneficiary of international protection as an EU Blue Card holder should be without prejudice to rights enjoyed by the person concerned under Directive 2011/95/EU and under the Geneva Convention in the Member State which granted the protection status. In that Member State, [...] more favourable provisions on equal treatment and family reunification of this Directive should [...] apply. Persons who are beneficiaries of international protection in a Member State, and who become EU Blue Card holders in another should enjoy the same rights including equality of treatment with nationals of the Member State of residence and family reunification rights as any other EU Blue Card holders in [...] that Member State. Applicants for international	(35) The rights acquired by a beneficiary of international protection as an EU Blue Card holder should be without prejudice to rights enjoyed by the person concerned under Directive 2011/95/EU and under the Geneva Convention in the Member State which granted the protection status. In that Member State, in order to avoid situations of conflicting rules, the provisions on equal treatment and family reunification of this Directive should not apply. Persons who are beneficiaries of international protection in one Member State and EU Blue Card holders in another should enjoy the same rights including equality of treatment with nationals of the Member State of residence as any other EU Blue Card holders in the latter Member State.	
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		<i>protection should enjoy the same rights, including equality of treatment with nationals of the Member State of residence and family reunification rights, as any other EU Blue Card holders in that Member State, irrespective of the Member State in which they have lodged their application for international protection. The status of a beneficiary of international protection should not be affected by the fact of that person also being an EU Blue Card holder or by the fact of that EU Blue Card expiring.</i>		
45.	(36) Favourable conditions for family reunification and unhindered access to work for spouses should be a fundamental element of this Directive in order to facilitate the attraction of highly skilled workers. Specific derogations from Council Directive 2003/86/EC should be provided for in order to reach this aim. Conditions related to integration or waiting periods should not be applied before allowing family reunification, as highly skilled	Amendment 37 (36) Favourable conditions for family reunification and unhindered access to work for spouses should be a fundamental element of this Directive in order to facilitate the attraction of highly skilled workers. Specific derogations from Council Directive 2003/86/EC should be	(36) Favourable conditions for family reunification and [...] access to work for spouses should be a fundamental element of this Directive in order to facilitate the attraction of highly [...] qualified workers. Specific derogations from Council Directive 2003/86/EC, which is applicable in both the	(36) Favourable conditions for family reunification and [...] access to work for spouses should be a fundamental element of this Directive in order to facilitate the attraction of highly [...] qualified workers. Specific derogations from Council Directive 2003/86/EC, which is applicable in both the first

	workers and their families are likely to have favourable starting point regarding integration in the host community. With the aim of facilitating the swift entry of highly skilled workers, residence permits to their family members should be issued at the same time as the EU Blue Card, where the relevant conditions are fulfilled and the applications were lodged simultaneously.	provided for in order to reach this aim. <i>In order to increase the attractiveness of the EU Blue Card,</i> conditions related to integration or waiting periods should not be applied before allowing family reunification, [...] <i>bearing in mind that an EU Blue Card holder already has a work contract or binding job offer in highly-skilled employment upon arrival.</i> With the aim of facilitating the swift entry of highly skilled workers, residence permits to their family members should be issued at the same time as the EU Blue Card, where the relevant conditions are fulfilled and the applications were lodged simultaneously.	first and the second Member States, should be provided for in order to reach this aim. Member States should have the possibility to lay down in their national law the conditions for access of spouses to self-employed activity. Conditions related to integration or waiting periods should not be applied before allowing family reunification, as highly [...] qualified workers and their families are likely to have favourable starting point regarding integration in the host community. With the aim of facilitating the swift entry of highly [...] qualified workers, residence permits to their family members should be issued at the same time as the EU Blue Card, where the relevant conditions are fulfilled and the applications were lodged simultaneously.	and the second Member States, should be provided for in order to reach this aim. Member States should have the possibility to restrict the scope of self-employed activities in which spouses may engage, under the same conditions that apply to other legally resident third country nationals. lay down in their national law the conditions for access of spouses to self-employed activity. Conditions related to integration or waiting periods should not be applied before allowing family reunification, as highly [...] qualified workers and their families are likely to have favourable starting point regarding integration in the host community. With the aim of facilitating the swift entry of highly [...] qualified workers, residence permits to their family members should be issued at the same time as the EU Blue Card, where the relevant conditions are fulfilled and the applications were lodged simultaneously.
45a		Amendment 38		

		<i>(36a) In accordance with Directive 2003/86/EC, Member States should be encouraged to ensure that family members of the EU Blue Card holders be granted an autonomous residence permit, independent of that of the EU Blue Card holder, in the event of widowhood, divorce, separation or death of first-degree relatives in the direct ascending or descending line.</i>		
46.	(37) In order to attract highly skilled workers and encourage their continuous stay in the Union, while enabling mobility within the Union as well as circular migration, derogations from Council Directive 2003/109/EC¹⁸ should be provided for in order to give EU Blue Card holders an easier access to EU long-term resident status.	Amendment 39 (37) In order to attract highly skilled workers and encourage their continuous stay in the Union, while enabling mobility within the Union as well as circular migration, derogations from Council Directive 2003/109/EC¹⁸ should be provided for in order to give EU Blue Card holders <i>and their family members</i> an easier access	(37) In order to attract highly [...] qualified workers and encourage their continuous stay in the Union, while enabling mobility within the Union as well as circular migration, derogations from Council Directive 2003/109/EC¹⁸ should be provided for in order to give EU Blue Card holders [...] easier access to EU long-term resident status. Where the	(37) In order to attract highly [...] qualified workers and encourage their continuous stay in the Union, while enabling mobility within the Union as well as circular migration, derogations from Council Directive 2003/109/EC¹⁸ should be provided for in order to give EU Blue Card holders who have availed themselves of the possibility to move from one Member State to another

¹⁸ Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 on the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents (OJ L 16, 23.1.2004, p. 44).

		to EU long-term resident status.	EU long-term resident status is obtained after three years and before the regular residence period of five years has been reached, Member States should be allowed to withdraw the status where the person does not have sufficient resources to maintain himself or herself and the members of his or her family without having recourse to the social assistance system of the Member State concerned. Member States' authorities retain a margin of manoeuvre with regard to the interpretation of the 'sufficient resources' requirement, provided that this does not undermine the objectives of this Directive and Council Directive 2003/109/EC and the effectiveness thereof. Member States should not withdraw the status where such a measure would be disproportionate.	Member State, easier access to EU long-term resident status, by allowing them to cumulate not only periods of residence in the Member State concerned, but also in different Member States, provided they can demonstrate five years of legal and continuous residence as a holder of an EU Blue Card, of a national permit for highly skilled workers, an authorisation as a student or researcher in accordance with Directive (EU) 2016/801 or as a beneficiary of international protection, and two years of legal and continuous residence as an EU Blue Card holder immediately prior to the submission of the relevant application within the territory of the Member State where the application for the EU long-term resident status is submitted.
47.		Amendment 40 <i>deleted</i>		

	(38) In order to foster the mobility of highly skilled workers between the Union and their countries of origin, derogations from Directive 2003/109/EC should be provided for in order to allow longer periods of absence than those provided for in that Directive after highly skilled third-country workers have acquired the EU long-term resident status.		(38) In order to foster the mobility of highly [...] qualified workers between the Union and their countries of origin, derogations from Directive 2003/109/EC should be provided for in order to allow longer periods of absence than those provided for in that Directive after highly [...] qualified third-country workers have acquired the EU long-term resident status.	
48.	(39) The occupational and geographical mobility of third-country highly skilled workers should be recognised as an important contributor to improving labour market efficiency across the Union, addressing skills shortages and offsetting regional imbalances. Mobility within the Union should be facilitated.		(39) The occupational and geographical mobility of third-country highly [...] qualified workers should be recognised as an important contributor to improving labour market efficiency across the Union, addressing skills shortages and offsetting regional imbalances. Mobility within the Union should be facilitated.	
48a			(39a) Where an EU Blue Card holder is posted to the territory of a Member State other than the Member State which granted him or her the EU Blue Card, this Directive shall be without prejudice to the provisions	

			of Directive 96/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive 2014/67/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.	
49.	(40) Existing legal uncertainty surrounding business trips of highly skilled workers should be addressed by defining this notion and setting a list of activities that in any case should be considered as business activities in all Member States. Second Member States should not be allowed to require from EU Blue Card holders engaging in business activities a work permit or any other authorisation than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State. Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full, its holder should be entitled to enter and stay in one or several second Member States for the purpose of business activity for up to 90 days in any 180-day period based on the EU Blue Card.	Amendment 41 (40) Existing legal uncertainty surrounding business trips of highly skilled workers should be addressed by defining this notion and setting a list of activities that in any case should be considered as business activities in all Member States. Second Member States should not be allowed to require from EU Blue Card holders engaging in business activities a work permit or any other authorisation than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State. Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full, its holder should be entitled to enter and stay in one or several second Member States for the purpose of	(40) Existing legal uncertainty surrounding business trips of highly [...] qualified workers should be addressed by defining this notion and setting a list of activities that in any case should be considered as business activities in all Member States. These activities should be directly linked to the interests of the employer in the first Member State and related to the duties of the Blue Card holder in the employment for which the Blue Card was granted. Second Member States should not be allowed to require from EU Blue Card holders engaging in business activities a visa, work permit or any other authorisation than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State.	

		business activity [...] <i>in accordance with this directive and Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁹ and the Schengen Borders Code.</i>	Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full, its holder should be entitled to enter and stay in one or several second Member States for the purpose of business activity for up to 90 days in any 180-day period based on the EU Blue Card.	
50.	(41) EU Blue Card holders should be allowed to move to a second Member State under simplified conditions where they intend to apply for a new EU Blue Card based on an existing work contract or binding job offer. Second Member States should not be allowed to require from EU Blue Card holders any other authorisation than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State. As soon as they submit an application for an EU Blue Card within the deadline provided for in this Directive, they should be allowed to begin employment. In the second Member State the procedure for issuing an EU Blue Card should be simplified compared to the first EU Blue Card; as the mobile EU Blue Card holder has already exercised highly skilled activity in one Member State for a certain period of	Amendment 42 (41) EU Blue Card holders should be allowed to move <i>with their family members</i> to a second Member State under [...] <i>their</i> EU Blue Card [...] <i>subject to notifying the second Member State of the fact that they are moving to that second Member State for the purposes of employment under the EU Blue Card.</i> Second Member States should not be allowed to require from EU Blue Card holders any authorisation <i>other</i> than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State. [...]	(41) EU Blue Card holders should be allowed to move to a second Member State under simplified conditions where they intend to apply for a new EU Blue Card based on an existing work contract or binding job offer. Second Member States should not be allowed to require from EU Blue Card holders any other authorisation than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State. As soon as they submit an application for an EU Blue Card within the deadline provided for in this Directive, [...] it should be possible for the second	

¹⁹ Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) (OJ L 77, 23 03 2016, p. 1).

	time, the second Member State should not have the need to control all the same details for a second time. However, mobility should remain demand-driven and therefore a work contract should always be required in the second Member State, and the salary should meet the threshold set by the second Member State in accordance with this Directive.	<i>Once the EU Blue Card holder has submitted his or her notification</i> within the deadline provided for in this Directive, they should be allowed to begin employment. [...] <i>The second Member State should retain the right to object to the mobility, but the procedure [...] should be simplified [...]; as the mobile EU Blue Card holder has already exercised highly skilled activity in one Member State for a certain period of time, the second Member State should not have the need to control all the same details for a second time. However, [...] a work contract should always be required in the second Member State, all the conditions in applicable laws, collective agreements or practices in the relevant occupational branch should be met or [...] the salary should meet the threshold set by the second Member State in</i>	Member State to allow them to begin employment. Mobility should be demand-driven and therefore a work contract should always be required in the second Member State, and the salary should meet the threshold set by the second Member State in accordance with this Directive.	
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		accordance with this Directive.		
51.	(42) While some special rules are provided in this Directive regarding entry and stay in a second Member State for the purpose of business activity, as well as moving to a second Member State to apply for a new EU Blue Card in its territory, all the other rules governing the movement of persons across borders as laid down in the relevant provisions of the Schengen <i>acquis</i> apply.	Amendment 43 (42) While some special rules are provided in this Directive regarding entry and stay in a second Member State for the purpose of business activity, as well as moving to a second Member State to [...] <i>reside and work there under the</i> EU Blue Card in its territory, all the other rules governing the movement of persons across borders as laid down in the relevant provisions of the Schengen <i>acquis</i> apply.	(42) While some special rules are provided in this Directive regarding entry and stay in a second Member State for the purpose of business activity, as well as moving to a second Member State to apply for a new EU Blue Card in its territory, all the other rules governing the movement of persons across borders as laid down in the relevant provisions of the Schengen <i>acquis</i> apply.	
52.	(43) Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen <i>acquis</i> in full and the EU Blue Card holder, in the mobility situations provided for in this Directive, crosses an external border within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁰ , a Member State should be entitled to require evidence that the EU	Amendment 44 (43) Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen <i>acquis</i> in full and the EU Blue Card holder, in the mobility situations provided for in this Directive, crosses an external border within the	(43) Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen <i>acquis</i> in full and the EU Blue Card holder, in the mobility situations provided for in this Directive, crosses an external border within the meaning of Regulation (EU)	

²⁰ Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) (OJ L 77, 23 03 2016, p. 1).

	Blue Card holder is entering its territory either for the purpose of business activities or in order to apply for a new EU Blue Card based on a work contract or binding job offer. In the case of mobility for carrying out business activities, that Member State should be able to require evidence of the business purpose of the stay, such as invitations, entry tickets, or documents describing the business activities of the company and the position of the EU Blue Card holder in the company.	meaning of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁰ , a Member State should be entitled to require evidence that the EU Blue Card holder is entering its territory either for the purpose of business activities or in order to [...] <i>reside and work there under the</i> EU Blue Card [...].	2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁰ , a Member State should be entitled to require evidence that the EU Blue Card holder is entering its territory either for the purpose of business activities or in order to apply for a new EU Blue Card based on a work contract or binding job offer. In the case of mobility for carrying out business activities, that Member State should be able to require evidence of the business purpose of the stay, such as invitations, entry tickets, or documents describing the business activities of the company and the position of the EU Blue Card holder in the company.	
53.	(44) Where the EU Blue Card holder moves to a second Member State to apply for an EU Blue Card and he or she is accompanied by family members, that Member State should be able to require evidence of their lawful residence in the first Member State. Besides, in case of crossing of an external border within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2016/399, the	Amendment 45 (44) Where the EU Blue Card holder moves to a second Member State to apply for an EU Blue Card and he or she is accompanied by family members, that Member State should be able to require [...] <i>the family</i>	(44) Where the EU Blue Card holder moves to a second Member State to apply for an EU Blue Card and he or she is accompanied by family members, that Member State should be able to require evidence of their lawful residence in the first Member	

	Members States applying the Schengen <i>acquis</i> in full should consult the Schengen information system and should refuse entry or object to the mobility of persons for whom an alert for the purposes of refusing entry or stay, as referred to in Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council ²¹ , has been issued in that system.	<i>members to present</i> their [...] residence <i>permit issued</i> in the first Member State. In case of crossing of an external border within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2016/399, the Members States applying the Schengen <i>acquis</i> in full should consult the Schengen information system and should refuse entry or object to the mobility of persons for whom an alert for the purposes of refusing entry or stay, as referred to in Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council ²¹ , has been issued in that system.	State. Besides, in case of crossing of an external border within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2016/399, the Members States applying the Schengen <i>acquis</i> in full should consult the Schengen information system and should refuse entry or object to the mobility of persons for whom an alert for the purposes of refusing entry or stay, as referred to in Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council ²¹ , has been issued in that system.	
53a			(44a) This Directive should allow the second Member State to request that the EU Blue Card holder, who moves on the basis of an EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State and whose application in the second Member State is rejected, leaves its territory.	

²¹ Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) (OJ L 381, 28.12.2006, p. 4).

			Where the EU Blue Card holder still has a valid EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State, the second Member State should be able to request that the EU Blue Card holder goes back to the first Member State in accordance with Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council²². Where the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State is withdrawn or has expired during the examination of the application, it should be possible for the second Member State to either decide to return the EU Blue Card holder to a third country, in accordance with Directive 2008/115/EC, or request the first Member State to allow re-entry of the EU Blue Card holder to its territory without unnecessary formalities or delay. In this latter case, the first Member State should issue the EU Blue Card	
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²² Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals (OJ L 348, 24.12.2008, p. 98).

			holder with a document allowing re-entry to its territory.	
54.	(45) For the purpose of residence of beneficiaries of international protection across Member States, it is necessary to ensure that Member States other than the one which issued international protection are informed of the protection background of the persons concerned in order to enable Member States to comply with their obligations regarding the principle of non-refoulement.	Amendment 46 (45) For the purpose of residence of beneficiaries of international protection <i>or the relevant category of applicants for international protection</i> across <i>the</i> Member States, it is necessary to ensure that Member States other than the one which issued international protection, <i>or other than the one that is responsible for the application for international protection</i> , are informed of the protection <i>or application</i> background of the persons concerned in order to enable Member States to comply with their obligations regarding the principle of non-refoulement.	(45) For the purpose of residence of beneficiaries of international protection across Member States, it is necessary to ensure that Member States other than the one which issued international protection are informed of the protection background of the persons concerned in order to enable Member States to comply with their obligations regarding the principle of non-refoulement.	
55.	(46) Where a Member State intends to expel a person who has acquired an EU Blue Card in that Member State and who is a beneficiary of international protection in another Member State, that person should		(46) Where a Member State intends to expel a person who has acquired an EU Blue Card in that Member State and who is a beneficiary of	

	enjoy the protection against expulsion guaranteed under Directive 2011/95/EU and under Article 33 of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the Protocol signed in New York on 31 January 1967 (the Geneva Convention).		international protection in another Member State, that person should enjoy the protection against expulsion guaranteed under Directive 2011/95/EU and under Article 33 of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the Protocol signed in New York on 31 January 1967 (the Geneva Convention).	
55a		Amendment 47 <i>(46a) Where a Member State intends to expel a person who acquired an EU Blue Card in that Member State and who has lodged an application for international protection in another Member State, that other Member State is obliged to comply with the principle of non-refoulement.</i>		
56.	(47) Where the expulsion of a beneficiary of international protection outside the territory of the Member States is permitted under Directive 2011/95/EU, Member States should be obliged to ensure that all information is obtained from relevant sources, including, where appropriate, from		(47) Where the expulsion of a beneficiary of international protection outside the territory of the Member States is permitted under Directive 2011/95/EU, Member States should be	

	the Member State that granted international protection, and that it is thoroughly assessed with a view to guaranteeing that the decision to expel that beneficiary is in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.		obliged to ensure that all information is obtained from relevant sources, including, where appropriate, from the Member State that granted international protection, and that it is thoroughly assessed with a view to guaranteeing that the decision to expel that beneficiary is in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.	
57.	(48) Specific reporting provisions should be provided for to monitor the implementation of this Directive, with a view to identifying and possibly counteracting its possible impacts in terms of brain drain in developing countries and in order to avoid brain waste.		(48) Specific reporting provisions should be provided for to monitor the implementation of this Directive, with a view to identifying and possibly counteracting its possible impacts in terms of brain drain in developing countries and in order to avoid brain waste.	
57a		Amendment 48 <i>(48a) As part of its role in monitoring the implementation of this Directive, the Commission should evaluate the applicability of similar schemes for labour migration to other</i>		<i>Compromise package: Amendment rejected</i>

		<i>employment sectors, in particular low and medium-wage sectors. The Union should consider further Union-wide admission systems to attract and retain workers – who are not categorized as highly skilled – where they would fill in identified labour market needs in the Members States.</i>		
57b		Amendment 49 <i>(48b) To ensure the proper enforcement of this Directive, and in particular the provisions regarding rights and working conditions, Member States should ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place for the monitoring of the Directive.</i>		<i>Compromise package: Amendment rejected</i>
58.	(49) Since the objectives of this Directive, namely the establishment of a special admission procedure and the adoption of conditions of entry and residence, and the rights, applicable to third-country nationals for the purpose of highly skilled employment and their family members, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, especially – to better		(49) Since the objectives of this Directive, namely the establishment of a special admission procedure and the adoption of conditions of entry and residence, and the rights, applicable to third-country nationals for the purpose of highly [...]	

	exploit the EU's overall attractiveness – as regards ensuring their mobility between Member States and offering a clear and single set of admission criteria across the Member States, and can therefore be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU). In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Directive does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.		qualified employment and their family members, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, especially – to better exploit the EU's overall attractiveness – as regards ensuring their mobility between Member States and offering a clear and single set of admission criteria across the Member States, and can therefore be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU). In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Directive does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.	
59.	(50) This Directive respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in accordance with Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU).		(50) This Directive respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in accordance with Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU).	

60.	(51) In accordance with the Joint Political Declaration of 28 September 2011 of Member States and the Commission on explanatory documents ²³ , Member States have undertaken to accompany, in justified cases, the notification of their transposition measures with one or more documents explaining the relationship between the components of a directive and the corresponding parts of national transposition instruments. With regard to this Directive, the legislator considers the transmission of such documents to be justified.		(51) In accordance with the Joint Political Declaration of 28 September 2011 of Member States and the Commission on explanatory documents ²⁴ , Member States have undertaken to accompany, in justified cases, the notification of their transposition measures with one or more documents explaining the relationship between the components of a directive and the corresponding parts of national transposition instruments. With regard to this Directive, the legislator considers the transmission of such documents to be justified.	
61.	(52) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 and Article 4a(1) of Protocol 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, annexed to TEU and TFEU, and without prejudice to Article 4 of the that Protocol, those Member States are not taking part in the adoption of this Directive and are not bound by or subject to its application.		(52) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 and Article 4a(1) of Protocol 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, annexed to TEU and TFEU, and without prejudice to Article 4 of the that Protocol, those Member	

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OJ C 369, 17.12.2011, p. 14.

			States are not taking part in the adoption of this Directive and are not bound by or subject to its application.	
62.	(53) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol 22 on the position of Denmark annexed to TEU and TFEU, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Directive, and is not bound by it or subject to its application.		(53) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol 22 on the position of Denmark annexed to TEU and TFEU, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Directive, and is not bound by it or subject to its application.	
63.	(54) Directive 2009/50/EC should therefore be repealed,		(54) Directive 2009/50/EC should therefore be repealed,	
64.	HAVE ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:		HAVE ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:	
65.	Chapter I GENERAL PROVISIONS		Chapter I GENERAL PROVISIONS	
66.	<i>Article 1</i> <i>Subject matter</i>		<i>Article 1</i> <i>Subject matter</i>	
67.	This Directive lays down:		This Directive lays down:	
68.	(a) the conditions of entry and residence for more than three months in the territory of the Member States, and the rights, of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly skilled employment, and of their family members;		(a) the conditions of entry and residence for more than three months in the territory of the Member States, and the rights, of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment, and of their family members;	
69.	(b) the conditions of entry and residence, and the rights, of third-country nationals and of their family members, referred to in point (a), in Member States other than the		(b) the conditions of entry and residence, and the rights, of third-country nationals and of their family members,	

	Member State which first granted an EU Blue Card.		referred to in point (a), in Member States other than the Member State which first granted an EU Blue Card.	
70.	<i>Article 2 Definitions</i>		<i>Article 2 Definitions</i>	
71.	For the purposes of this Directive:		For the purposes of this Directive:	
72.	(a) "third-country national" means any person who is not a citizen of the Union within the meaning of Article 20(1) of the Treaty;		(a) "third-country national" means any person who is not a citizen of the Union within the meaning of Article 20(1) of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union ;	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> (a) "third-country national" means any person who is not a citizen of the Union within the meaning of Article 20(1) of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union ;
73.	(b) "highly skilled employment" means the employment of a person who:	(shared competence)	(b) "highly [...] qualified employment" means [...] employment [...] in a position demanding higher professional qualifications, where the employed person:	<i>Compromise package:</i> <i>b) "highly [...] qualified skilled employment" means [...] the employment + in a position demanding higher professional qualifications, where the employed of a person who:</i>
74.	– in the Member State concerned, is protected as an employee under national employment law or in accordance with national practice, irrespective of the legal		- in the Member State concerned, is protected as an employee under national employment law or in	

	relationship, for the purpose of exercising genuine and effective work for, or under the direction of, someone else;		accordance with national practice, irrespective of the legal relationship, for the purpose of exercising genuine and effective work for, or under the direction of, someone else;	
75.	– is paid; and		- is paid; and	
76.	– has the required competence, as proven by higher professional qualifications.	Amendment 50 - has the required [...] qualifications or skills as attested by evidence of higher education qualifications or higher professional [...] skills ;	- has the required competence, as proven by higher professional qualifications.	Compromise package: - has the required [...] higher professional qualifications as attested by evidence of higher education qualifications or higher professional skills;
77.	(c) "EU Blue Card" means the residence permit bearing the term "EU Blue Card" entitling its holder to reside and work in the territory of a Member State under the terms of this Directive;	Amendment 51 (c) "EU Blue Card" means the residence permit bearing the term "EU Blue Card" entitling its holder, and pursuant to Directive 2003/86/EC his or her family members , to reside and work in the territory of a Member State under the terms of this Directive;	(c) "EU Blue Card" means the residence permit bearing the term "EU Blue Card" entitling its holder to reside and work in the territory of a Member State under the terms of this Directive;	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> (c) "EU Blue Card" means the residence permit bearing the term "EU Blue Card" entitling its holder to reside and work in the territory of a Member State under the terms of this Directive;

78.	(d) "first Member State" means the Member State which first grants a third-country national an "EU Blue Card";		(d) "first Member State" means the Member State which first grants a third-country national an "EU Blue Card";	
79.	(e) "second Member State" means any Member State in which the EU Blue Card holder intends to exercise or exercises the right of mobility within the meaning of this Directive, other than the first Member State;		(e) "second Member State" means any Member State in which the EU Blue Card holder intends to exercise or exercises the right of mobility within the meaning of this Directive, other than the first Member State;	
80.	(f) "family members" means third-country nationals as defined in Article 4(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC;		(f) "family members" means third-country nationals as defined in Article 4(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC;	
81.	(g) "higher professional qualifications" means qualifications attested by evidence of higher education qualifications or higher professional skills;	Amendment 52 (shared competence) <i>deleted</i>	(g) "higher professional qualifications" means qualifications attested by evidence of higher education qualifications or, where provided for by national law , higher professional skills;	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17: This provision will be deleted as it will be merged with point b) of this Article</i> <i>Compromise package:</i> (g) "higher professional qualifications" means qualifications attested by evidence of higher education qualifications or higher professional skills;
82.		Amendment 53 (shared competence)		<i>Compromise package:</i>

	(h) "higher education qualifications" means any diploma, certificate or other evidence of formal qualifications issued by a competent authority attesting the successful completion of a post-secondary higher education or equivalent tertiary education programme, namely a set of courses provided by an educational establishment recognised as a higher education institution or equivalent tertiary educational institution by the State in which it is situated, where the studies needed to acquire those qualifications lasted at least three years and correspond at least to ISCED 2011 level 6 or to EQF level 6, according to national law;	(h) "higher education qualifications" means any diploma, certificate or other supporting evidence of formal qualifications issued by a competent authority attesting the successful completion of a post-secondary higher education or equivalent tertiary education programme, namely a set of courses provided by an educational establishment recognised as a higher education institution or equivalent tertiary educational institution by the State in which it is situated, where the studies needed to acquire those qualifications lasted at least three years and correspond at least to ISCED 2011 level 6 or to EQF level 6, according to national law;	(h) "higher education qualifications" means any diploma, certificate or other evidence of formal qualifications issued by a competent authority attesting the successful completion of a post-secondary higher education or equivalent tertiary education programme, namely a set of courses provided by an educational establishment recognised as a higher education institution or equivalent tertiary educational institution by the State in which it is situated, where the studies needed to acquire those qualifications lasted at least three years and correspond at least to ISCED 2011 level 6 [...], according to national law;	(h) "higher education qualifications" means any diploma, certificate or other evidence of formal qualifications issued by a competent authority attesting the successful completion of a post-secondary higher education or equivalent tertiary education programme, namely a set of courses provided by an educational establishment recognised as a higher education institution or equivalent tertiary educational institution by the State in which it is situated, where the studies needed to acquire those qualifications lasted at least three years and correspond at least to ISCED 2011 level 6 or to EQF level 6 , according to national law;
83.	(i) "higher professional skills" means skills attested by at least three years of professional experience of a level comparable to higher education qualifications and which is relevant in the profession or sector specified in the work contract or binding job offer;	(shared competence)	(i) "higher professional skills", where provided for by national law or national procedures , means knowledge, skills and competences attested by at least [...] five years of professional experience of a	<i>Compromise package:</i> (i) "higher professional skills", as concerns the occupations listed in the Annex , means knowledge, skills and competences

			level comparable to higher education qualifications and which is relevant in the profession or sector specified in the work contract or binding job offer;	attested by professional experience of a level comparable to higher education qualifications, and which is relevant in the profession or sector specified in the work contract or binding job offer, and which has been acquired over the duration defined in the Annex for each relevant occupation ; as concerns other occupations, only where provided for by national law or national procedures, means knowledge, skills and competences attested by at least [...] five years of professional experience of a level comparable to higher education qualifications and which is relevant in the profession or sector specified in the work contract or binding job offer;
				<i>ANNEX I – List of occupations referred to in Article 2, point (i)</i> <i>- Information and communications technology managers and professionals, belonging to</i>

				<i>the following groups in the ISCO-08 classification:</i> - 133 Information and communications technology service managers (duration: 3 years within the last 7 years) - 25 Information and communications technology professional (duration: 3 years within the last 7 years).
84.	(j) "professional experience" means the actual and lawful pursuit of the profession concerned;	Amendment 54 (shared competence) (j) "professional experience" means the actual and [...] documented pursuit of the profession concerned;	(j) "professional experience" means the actual and lawful pursuit of the profession concerned;	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> (j) "professional experience" means the actual and lawful pursuit of the profession concerned;
85.	(k) "regulated profession" means a regulated profession as defined in Article 3(1) (a) of Directive 2005/36/EC;	(shared competence)	(k) "regulated profession" means a regulated profession as defined in Article 3(1) (a) of Directive 2005/36/EC;	
86.	(l) "business activity" means a temporary activity related to the business interests of the employer, such as attending internal and external business meetings, attending conferences and seminars, negotiating business deals, undertaking sales or marketing activities, performing internal or client audits, exploring business	Amendment 55 (l) "business activity" means a temporary activity related to the business interests of the employer, such as attending internal and external business meetings, attending conferences and seminars, negotiating business deals	(l) "business activity" means a temporary activity directly related to the business interests of the employer [...] and to the professional duties of the EU Blue Card holder based on the employment contract in the first Member State,	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> (l) "business activity" means a temporary activity directly related to the business interests of the employer [...] and to the professional duties of the EU Blue Card holder based on the employment contract in the

	opportunities, or attending and receiving training;	and undertaking sales or marketing activities [...];	including at least attending internal and external business meetings, attending conferences and seminars, negotiating business deals, undertaking sales or marketing activities, [...] exploring business opportunities, or attending and receiving training;	first Member State, including at least attending internal and external business meetings, attending conferences and seminars, negotiating business deals, undertaking sales or marketing activities, [...] exploring business opportunities, or attending and receiving training;
87.	(m) “international protection” has the meaning as defined in Article 2(a) of Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council	Amendment 56 (m) “international protection” has the meaning as defined in Article 2(a) of Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and, where applicable, as defined in national law;	(m) “international protection” has the meaning as defined in Article 2(a) of Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> (m) “international protection” has the meaning as defined in Article 2(a) of Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.
87a		Amendment 57 (ma) “threat to public health” means any disease with epidemic potential as defined by the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization and other infectious or contagious parasitic diseases if they are the		<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> <i>Agreement to drop EP amendment 57 and add the following to Recital 20:</i> “A threat to public health is to be understood in line with Regulation (EU) 2016/399.”

		<i>subject of protection provisions applying to nationals of the Member States.</i>		
88.	<i>Article 3 Scope</i>		<i>Article 3 Scope</i>	
89.	1. This Directive shall apply to third-country nationals who apply to be admitted or who have been admitted to the territory of a Member State for the purpose of highly skilled employment.	Amendment 58 1. This Directive shall apply to third-country nationals who apply to be admitted or who have been admitted to the territory of a Member State for the purpose of highly skilled employment. <i>This Directive shall also apply to third-country nationals who already hold a residence permit in a Member State on the basis of Directive (EU) 2016/801.</i>	1. This Directive shall apply to third-country nationals who apply to be admitted or who have been admitted to the territory of a Member State for the purpose of highly [...] qualified employment.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> <i>Agreement to drop EP amendment 58 and to move the issue to Recital 11.</i>
90.	2. This Directive shall not apply to third-country nationals:		2. This Directive shall not apply to third-country nationals:	
91.	(a) who seek international protection and are awaiting a decision on their status or who are beneficiaries of temporary	Amendment 59 (a) who seek international protection and are awaiting a decision on their status or who are beneficiaries of temporary protection in accordance with the	(a) who seek international protection and are awaiting a decision on their status or who are beneficiaries of temporary protection in accordance with the Council	<i>Compromise package:</i> <i>Keep Council text</i>

	protection in accordance with the Council Directive 2001/55/EC ²⁴ in a Member State;	Council Directive 2001/55/EC ²⁴ in a Member State, <i>and who are not entitled to access the labour market while awaiting that decision in accordance with Article 15 of Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council</i> ²⁵ ;	Directive 2001/55/EC ²⁴ in a Member State;	
92.	(b) who seek protection in accordance with national law, international obligations or practice of the Member State and are awaiting a decision on their status, or who are beneficiaries of protection in accordance with national law, international obligations or practice of the Member State;	Amendment 60 (b) who seek protection in accordance with <i>the</i> national law, international obligations or practice of the Member State and are awaiting a decision on their status, or who are beneficiaries of protection in accordance with <i>the</i> national law, international obligations or practice of the Member State <i>and who are not entitled to access the labour market in that Member State under the relevant national law</i> ;	(b) who seek protection in accordance with national law, international obligations or practice of the Member State and are awaiting a decision on their status, or who are beneficiaries of protection in accordance with national law, international obligations or practice of the Member State;	<i>Compromise package: Keep Council text</i>
93.		Amendment 61		<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i>

²⁴ Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof (OJ L 212, 7.8.2001, p. 12).

²⁵ *Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (OJ L 180, 29.6.13, p. 96).*

	(c) who apply to reside in a Member State as researchers within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2016/801 in order to carry out a research project;	<i>deleted</i>	(c) who apply to reside in a Member State as researchers within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2016/801 in order to carry out a research project;	(c) who apply to reside in a Member State as researchers within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2016/801 in order to carry out a research project;
94.	(d) who enjoy EU long-term resident status in a Member State in accordance with Directive 2003/109/EC and exercise their right to reside in another Member State in order to carry out an economic activity in an employed or self-employed capacity;		(d) who enjoy EU long-term resident status in a Member State in accordance with Directive 2003/109/EC and exercise their right to reside in another Member State in order to carry out an economic activity in an employed or self-employed capacity;	
95.	(e) who enter a Member State under commitments contained in an international agreement facilitating the entry and temporary stay of certain categories of trade and investment-related natural persons, with the exception of third-country nationals who have been admitted to the territory of a Member State as intra-corporate transferees pursuant to Directive 2014/66/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁶ ;		(e) who enter a Member State under commitments contained in an international agreement facilitating the entry and temporary stay of certain categories of trade and investment-related natural persons, with the exception of third-country nationals who have been admitted to the territory of a Member State as intra-corporate transferees pursuant to Directive 2014/66/EU of the European	

²⁶ Directive 2014/66/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer (OJ L 157, 27.5.2014, p. 1).

			Parliament and of the Council ²⁶ ;	
96.	(f) who have been admitted to the territory of a Member State as seasonal workers pursuant to Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁷ ;	Amendment 62 <i>deleted</i>	(f) who have been admitted to the territory of a Member State as seasonal workers pursuant to Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁷ ;	<i>Compromise package: Delete provision</i>
97.	(g) whose expulsion has been suspended for reasons of fact or law;		(g) whose expulsion has been suspended for reasons of fact or law;	
98.	(h) who are covered by Directive 96/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁸ as long as they are posted on the territory of the Member State concerned;		(h) who are covered by Directive 96/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as long as they are posted on the territory of the Member State concerned;	
99.	(i) who under agreements between the Union and its Member States and third countries enjoy rights of free movement equivalent to those of Union citizens.		(i) who under agreements between the Union and its Member States and third countries, as nationals of those third countries , enjoy rights of free movement equivalent to those of Union citizens.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> (i) who under agreements between the Union and its Member States and third countries, as nationals of those third countries , enjoy rights of free movement

²⁷ Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 375).

²⁸ Directive 96/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services (OJ L 18, 21.1.1997, p. 1).

				equivalent to those of Union citizens.
99a			2a. This Directive shall apply to beneficiaries of international protection where, after having resided for at least 12 months in the Member State which granted them the international protection, they apply to be admitted to the territory of another Member State for the purpose of highly qualified employment under the terms of this Directive. Member States may decide to apply the provisions of this Directive to beneficiaries of international protection to whom they granted international protection, after having resided for at least 12 months on their territory.	Compromise package: 2a. This Directive shall apply to beneficiaries of international protection where, in the Member State which granted them the international protection, they apply to be admitted to the territory of another Member State for the purpose of highly qualified employment under the terms of this Directive. Member States shall apply the provisions of this Directive to beneficiaries of international protection to whom they granted international protection. (Provision deleted)
100.	3. This Directive shall be without prejudice to any agreement between the Union and its Member States or between the Member States and one or more third countries, that lists the professions which do not fall under this Directive in order to assure ethical	Amendment 63 Deleted	3. This Directive shall be without prejudice to any agreement between the Union and its Member States or between the Member States and one or more third	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> <i>This provision will be merged with Article 6(3)(cb). Consequently, this provision will be deleted.</i>

	recruitment, in sectors suffering from a lack of personnel, by protecting human resources in the developing countries which are signatories to these agreements.		countries, that lists the professions which do not fall under this Directive in order to assure ethical recruitment, in sectors suffering from a lack of personnel, by protecting human resources in the developing countries which are signatories to these agreements.	
101.	4. Member States shall not issue any other permit than an EU Blue Card to third-country nationals for the purpose of highly skilled employment.		4. This Directive shall be without prejudice to the right of the Member States [...] to issue [...] residence permits other than an EU Blue Card [...] for the purpose of highly [...] qualified employment. Such residence permits shall not confer the right of residence in the other Member States as provided for in this Directive.	<i>Compromise package:</i> 4. This Directive shall be without prejudice to the right of the Member States [...] to issue [...] residence permits other than an EU Blue Card [...] for the purpose of highly [...] qualified employment. Such residence permits shall not confer the right of residence in the other Member States as provided for in this Directive.
102.	<i>Article 4 More favourable provisions</i>		<i>Article 4 More favourable provisions</i>	
103.	1. This Directive shall be without prejudice to more favourable provisions of:		1. This Directive shall be without prejudice to more favourable provisions of:	
104.	(a) Union law, including bilateral or multilateral agreements concluded between the Union or the Union and its Member		(a) Union law, including bilateral or multilateral agreements concluded	

	States on the one hand and one or more third countries on the other;		between the Union or the Union and its Member States on the one hand and one or more third countries on the other;	
105.	(b) bilateral or multilateral agreements already concluded between one or more Member States and one or more third countries before the date of entry into force of this Directive.		(b) bilateral or multilateral agreements [...] concluded between one or more Member States and one or more third countries [...];	<i>Compromise package : Keep Council mandate</i>
106.	2. This Directive shall not affect the right of Member States to adopt or retain more favourable provisions in respect of Articles 10, 14, 15, 16 and 17(5).	(shared competence)	2. This Directive shall not affect the right of Member States to adopt or retain more favourable provisions in respect of Articles 10, 14, 15, 16 and 17(5).	<i>Compromise package:</i> Remove reference to deleted Article 14.
106a				<i>Compromise package</i> 3. Where an EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State on the basis of higher professional skills in occupations not listed in the Annex, it shall enter the following remark in that third-country national's EU Blue Card, under the heading "Remarks": "Delivered on the basis of high professional skills for occupations not listed in the Annex". (provision moved to line 159c)

107.	Chapter II CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION, REFUSAL AND WITHDRAWAL		Chapter II CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION, REFUSAL AND WITHDRAWAL	
108.	<i>Article 5 Criteria for admission</i>		<i>Article 5 Criteria for admission</i>	
109.	1. A third-country national who applies for an EU Blue Card shall:	Amendment 64 1. <i>As regards the admission of</i> a third-country national [...] <i>under this Directive, the applicant</i> shall:	1. As regards the admission of a third-country national [...] under this Directive, the applicant shall:	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> 1. As regards the admission of a third-country national [...] under this Directive, the applicant shall:
110.	(a) present a valid work contract or, as provided for in national law, a binding job offer for highly skilled employment, of at least six months in the Member State concerned;	Amendment 65 (a) present a valid work contract or, as provided for in national law, a binding job offer for highly skilled employment, of at least [...] nine months in the Member State concerned;	(a) present a valid work contract or, as provided for in national law, a binding job offer for highly [...] qualified employment, of at least six months in the Member State concerned;	<i>Skills vs qualifications to be discussed at a political level.</i> <i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11.02.21:</i> (a) present a valid work contract or, as provided for in national law, a binding job offer for highly [skilled][qualified] employment, of at least six months in the Member State concerned;
110a			<u>new (moved from point c)</u> (aa) present the documents attesting relevant higher professional qualifications in relation to the work to be	<i>Compromise package:</i> (aa) for unregulated professions , present the documents attesting relevant

			carried out as provided for in national law;	higher education professional qualifications or, where provided for by national law, higher professional skills in relation to the work to be carried out [...];
111.	(b) for regulated professions, present a document attesting fulfilment of the conditions set out under national law for the exercise by Union citizens of the regulated profession specified in the work contract or binding job offer as provided for in national law;		(b) for regulated professions, present [...] the documents attesting fulfilment of the conditions set out under national law for the exercise by Union citizens of the regulated profession specified in the work contract or binding job offer as provided for in national law;	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> (b) for regulated professions, present [...] the documents attesting fulfilment of the conditions set out under national law for the exercise by Union citizens of the regulated profession specified in the work contract or binding job offer as provided for in national law;
112.	(c) for unregulated professions, present evidence attesting higher professional qualifications;	Amendment 66 (c) for unregulated professions present written evidence attesting higher education qualifications or higher professional [...] skills ;	<i>deleted (moved under point aa)</i>	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> <i>This provision will be deleted, as moved under point aa).</i>
113.	(d) present a valid travel document, as determined by national law, and, if required, an application for a visa or a valid	Amendment 67 (d) present a valid travel document, as determined by national law, and, if required, an application for	(d) present a valid travel document, as determined by national law, and, if required, an application for a visa or a	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> (d) present a valid travel document, as determined by national law, and, if required,

	visa or, where applicable, a valid residence permit or a valid long-stay visa;	a visa or a valid visa or, where applicable, a valid residence permit or a valid long-stay visa <i>or evidence that an application for international protection or for protection under national law is pending</i> ;	valid visa or, where applicable, a valid residence permit or a valid long-stay visa. Member States may require the period of validity of the travel document to cover at least the initial duration of the residence permit.	an application for a visa or a valid visa or, where applicable, a valid residence permit or a valid long-stay visa. <i>See Article 8(2) which will be amended and consequently the Council amendment in this provision has been withdrawn.</i>
114.	(e) present evidence of having or, if provided for by national law, having applied for a sickness insurance for all the risks normally covered for nationals of the Member State concerned for periods where no such insurance coverage and corresponding entitlement to benefits are provided in connection with, or resulting from, the work contract.		(e) [...] provide evidence of having or, if provided for by national law, having applied for a sickness insurance for all the risks normally covered for nationals of the Member State concerned for periods where no such insurance coverage and corresponding entitlement to benefits are provided in connection with, or resulting from, the work contract.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> (e) [...] provide evidence of having or, if provided for by national law, having applied for a sickness insurance for all the risks normally covered for nationals of the Member State concerned for periods where no such insurance coverage and corresponding entitlement to benefits are provided in connection with, or resulting from, the work contract.
115.	2. In addition to the conditions laid down in paragraph 1, the gross annual salary resulting from the monthly or annual salary	Amendment 68 (shared competence) <i>deleted</i>	2. In addition to the conditions laid down in paragraph 1, the gross annual	<i>Compromise package:</i> 2. In addition to the conditions laid down in

	specified in the work contract or binding job offer shall not be inferior to the salary threshold set and published for that purpose by the Member States. The salary threshold set by the Member States shall be at least 1.0 times but not higher than 1.4 times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned.		salary resulting from the monthly or annual salary specified in the work contract or binding job offer shall not be inferior to the salary threshold set and published for that purpose by the Member States. The salary threshold set by the Member States shall be at least [...] 1.1 times but not higher than [...] 1.7 times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned.	paragraphs 1 and 3 , the gross annual salary resulting from the monthly or annual salary specified in the work contract or binding job offer shall not be inferior to the salary threshold set and published for that purpose by the Member States. The salary threshold shall be set by the Member States, after consultation with the social partners according to national practices, and be at least [...] 1.1 [1.0] times but not higher than [...] 1.7 [1.6] times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned.
115a			2a. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, Member States may apply a higher threshold of maximum 2.0 times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned where: - the national average gross annual salary is lower than half of the average at EU level; and - there is a significant difference in the levels of	<i>Compromise package:</i> Delete Council proposal

			the average gross annual salary between regions in that Member State, which would cause the national salary threshold for highly qualified workers to be disproportionately low.	
116.	3. Member States shall require that all conditions in the applicable laws, collective agreements or practices in the relevant occupational branches for highly skilled employment are met.	(EMPL)	3. Member States shall require that all conditions in the applicable laws, collective agreements or practices in the relevant occupational branches for highly [...] qualified employment are met.	Compromise package: Keep Council mandate
116a		Amendment 69 (shared competence) <i>3a. In addition to the conditions laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2, when transposing this Directive, Member States shall establish a salary threshold in agreement with the social partners. In such a case, the monthly or annual salary specified in the work contract shall not be inferior to the salary threshold established and published for that purpose by the Member States nor inferior to the wages</i>		Compromise package: Reject amendment 69

		<i>which apply or which would apply to a comparable worker in the same sector, based on the applicable legislation, collective agreements and practices in the Member State concerned. In any case, that salary threshold shall be at least 1.0 times but not higher than 1.4 times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned.</i>		
116b		<i>Member States may, in agreement with the social partners, decide not to establish a salary threshold in certain occupational branches where it is agreed that such a threshold is unnecessary. Such may be the case, where a collective agreement governs the wages which apply in that occupational branch.</i>		
117.	4. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, and for employment in professions which are in particular need of third-country national workers and which belong to	Amendment 70 (shared competence) deleted	4. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, and for employment in professions which are in particular need	<i>Compromise package:</i> 4. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, and for employment in professions

	major groups 1 and 2 of ISCO, the salary threshold shall be 80 percent of the salary threshold set by the Member State concerned in accordance with paragraph 2.		of third-country national workers and which belong to major groups 1 and 2 of ISCO, Member States may apply a lower [...] salary threshold [...] of at least 80 percent of the salary threshold set by the Member State concerned in accordance with paragraph 2.	which are in particular need of third-country national workers and which belong to major groups 1 and 2 of ISCO, Member States may apply a lower [...] salary threshold [...] of at least 80 percent of the salary threshold set by the Member State concerned in accordance with paragraph 2, which in any event shall not be lower than 1.0 times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned.
118.	5. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, as regards third-country nationals who have obtained a higher education qualification not more than three years before submitting the application for an EU Blue Card, the salary threshold shall be 80 percent of the salary threshold set by the Member State concerned in accordance with paragraph 2. The period of three years shall reapply after the attainment of each level of higher education qualifications.	Amendment 71 <i>deleted</i>	5. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, as regards third-country nationals who have obtained a higher education qualification not more than three years before submitting the application for an EU Blue Card, Member States may apply a lower [...] salary threshold [...] of at least 80 percent of the salary threshold [...] by the Member State concerned in accordance with paragraph 2. [...]	<i>Compromise package:</i> 5. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, as regards third-country nationals who have obtained a higher education qualification not more than three years before submitting the application for an EU Blue Card, Member States may apply a lower [...] salary threshold [...] of at least 80 percent of the salary threshold set [...] by the Member State concerned in accordance with paragraph 2, which in any event shall not be lower than 1.0 times the

				average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned.
119.	The salary threshold referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph shall apply whenever an application for a first EU Blue Card or a renewal is submitted during that period of three years. Where the EU Blue Card issued during the period of three years is renewed after the three years period has elapsed, the salary threshold referred to in paragraph 2 shall apply. However, where the first EU Blue Card issued during the period of three years was issued for less than 24 months, the lower salary threshold referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph shall apply upon the first renewal.	Amendment 71 <i>deleted</i>	Where the EU Blue Card issued during the period of three years is renewed, the salary threshold referred to in the first subparagraph [...] shall continue to apply if [...]: (a) the initial period of three years has not elapsed; or (b) a period of 24 months after the issuance of the first EU Blue Card has not elapsed.	<i>Compromise package: Keep Council mandate</i>
120.	6. Member States shall facilitate the validation and recognition of documents attesting the relevant higher professional qualifications pursuant to point (c) of paragraph 1.	Amendment 72 6. Member States shall facilitate the <i>speedy</i> validation and recognition of documents attesting the relevant higher [...] <i>education</i> qualifications <i>and higher professional skills to be verified</i> pursuant to point (c) of paragraph 1.	<i>Deleted</i>	<i>Compromise package: (new recital:)</i> <i>Member States should develop the tools required to facilitate the validation and recognition of documents attesting the relevant higher professional qualifications in unregulated professions. (covered in recital 14 – line 23)</i>
120a		Amendment 73		<i>Compromise package: Reject amendment 73</i>

		<i>Member States shall develop mechanisms and arrangements for the evaluation of higher professional skills as defined in point (i) of Article 2 and the validation of professional experience as defined in point (j) of Article 2. When developing such mechanisms and arrangements, Member States shall consult with the social partners.</i>		
121.	7. Member States shall reject applications of third-country nationals who are considered to pose a threat to public policy, public security or public health.	Amendment 74 <i>deleted</i>	7. [...] Third-country nationals who are considered to pose a threat to public policy, public security or public health shall not be admitted .	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11.02.21 to move this provision to Art. 6(1).</i>
122.	8. Member States may require the third-country national concerned to provide his or her address in their territory.	Amendment 75 <i>deleted</i>	8. Member States may require the third-country national concerned to provide his or her address in their territory.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> 8. Member States may require the third-country national concerned to provide his or her address in their territory. <i>See Recital 18a.</i>

123.	Where the national law of a Member State requires an address to be provided at the time of application and the third-country national concerned does not yet know his or her future address, Member States shall accept a temporary address. In such a case, the third-country national shall provide his or her permanent address at the latest when the EU Blue Card pursuant to Article 8 is issued.	Amendment 75 Deleted	Where the national law of a Member State requires an address to be provided at the time of application and the third-country national concerned does not yet know his or her future address, Member States shall accept a temporary address. In such a case, the third-country national shall provide his or her permanent address at the latest when the EU Blue Card pursuant to Article 8 is issued.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> Where the national law of a Member State requires an address to be provided at the time of application and the third-country national concerned does not yet know his or her future address, Member States shall accept a temporary address. In such a case, the third-country national shall provide his or her permanent address at the latest when the EU Blue Card pursuant to Article 8 is issued.
123a			<i>Article 5a Volumes of admission</i>	
123b			This Directive shall not affect the right of a Member State to determine the volumes of admission of third-country nationals in accordance with Article 79(5) TFEU. On that basis, an application for an EU Blue Card may either be considered inadmissible or be rejected.	<i>Compromise package: Keep Council mandate</i>

124.	Article 6 Grounds for refusal		Article 6 Grounds for refusal	
125.	1. Member States shall reject an application for an EU Blue Card in any of the following cases:	Amendment 76 1. Member States shall reject an application for an EU Blue Card [...]:	1. Member States shall reject an application for an EU Blue Card in any of the following cases:	Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17: Member States shall reject an application for an EU Blue Card [...]:
126.	(a) where the applicant does not meet the conditions set out in Article 5;	Amendment 77 (a) where the applicant does not meet the [...] criteria set out in Article 5; or	(a) where the applicant does not meet the conditions set out in Article 5;	Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17: (a) where [...] Article 5 is not complied with; [or]
127.	(b) where the documents presented have been fraudulently acquired, or falsified or tampered with.	Amendment 78 (b) where the [...] third-country national is considered to pose a threat to public policy, public security or public health.	(b) where the documents presented have been fraudulently acquired, or falsified or tampered with.	<i>Compromise package: Reject amendment 78</i>
127a				Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 [c] where the third-country national is considered to pose a threat to public policy, public security or public health; or (See also line 149f)

127b				<i>Compromise package:</i> <i>[Keep the text added by the Council during the negotiations]</i> (d) where the employer's business was established or operates for the main purpose of facilitating the entry of third-country nationals.
128.	2. In circumstances where their labour market situation undergoes serious disturbances such as a high level of unemployment in a given occupation or sector, which may be limited to a particular part of their territory, Member States may check whether the concerned vacancy could not be filled by national or Union workforce, by third-country nationals lawfully resident in that Member State and already forming part of its labour market by virtue of Union or national law, or by EU long-term residents wishing to move to that Member State for highly skilled employment in accordance with Chapter III of Directive 2003/109/EC.	Amendment 79 deleted <i>(moved to Art. 6(3), AM 86)</i>	2. [...] Member States may check whether the concerned vacancy could not be filled by national or Union workforce, by third-country nationals lawfully resident in that Member State and already forming part of its labour market by virtue of Union or national law, or by EU long-term residents wishing to move to that Member State for highly [...] qualified employment in accordance with Chapter III of Directive 2003/109/EC.	<i>Compromise package:</i> Accept to be moved to paragraph 3
129.		Amendment 79		<i>Compromise package:</i> Keep Council mandate

	The Member State concerned shall notify the Commission of its intention to introduce such check in a given occupation or sector, which may be limited to a particular part of their territory, for third-country nationals coming from third countries for the next 12 months, and shall supply the Commission with all relevant reasons justifying this decision. For each extension of 12 months the Member State concerned shall send a new justified notification.	<i>deleted</i> (moved to Art. 6(3), AM 86)	<i>Deleted</i>	
130.	3. Member States may reject an application for an EU Blue Card where:	Amendment 80 3. Member States may reject an application for an EU Blue Card [...]:	3. Member States may reject an application for an EU Blue Card where:	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> 3. Member States may reject an application for an EU Blue Card [...]:
130a				<i>Compromise package:</i> (a) where the competent authorities of the Member State, after checking the labour market situation, for example where there is a high level of unemployment , conclude that the concerned vacancy may be filled by national or Union workforce, by third-country nationals lawfully resident in that Member State and already forming part of its labour market by virtue of Union or

				national law, or by EU long-term residents wishing to move to that Member State for highly [...] qualified employment in accordance with Chapter III of Directive 2003/109/EC;
131.	(a) the employer has failed to meet its legal obligations regarding social security, taxation, labour rights or working conditions;	Amendment 81 (shared competence) (a) where the employer has repeatedly failed to meet its legal obligations regarding social security, taxation, labour rights or working conditions during a period of five years prior to the date of the application ;	(a) the employer has failed to meet its legal obligations regarding social security, taxation, labour rights or working conditions;	<i>Compromise package: Keep Council text</i> (aa) where the employer has failed to meet its legal obligations regarding social security, taxation, labour rights or working conditions;
132.	(b) the employer's business is being or has been wound up under national insolvency laws or no economic activity is taking place; or	Amendment 82 (b) where the employer's business is being or has been wound up under national insolvency laws or no economic activity is taking place; [...]	(b) the employer's business is being or has been wound up under national insolvency laws or no economic activity is taking place; or	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> (b) where the employer's business is being or has been wound up under national insolvency laws or no economic activity is taking place; [...]
133.	(c) the employer has been sanctioned for employment of illegally staying third-country nationals in accordance with Article 9 of Directive 2009/52/EC of the	Amendment 83 (c) where the employer has been sanctioned for employment of illegally staying third-country	(c) the employer has been sanctioned for employment of illegally staying third-country nationals in accordance with	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> (c) where the employer has been sanctioned for employment of illegally

	European Parliament and of the Council ²⁹ , or for undeclared work or illegal employment according to national law.	nationals in accordance with Article 9 of Directive 2009/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁹ , or for undeclared work or illegal employment according to national law;	Article 9 of Directive 2009/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁹ , or for undeclared work or illegal employment according to national law.	staying third-country nationals in accordance with Article 9 of Directive 2009/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ²⁹ , or for undeclared work or illegal employment according to national law;
133a		Amendment 84 <i>(ca) where, with the knowledge of the third-country national, the documents presented for the purpose of admission pursuant to Article 5 have been fraudulently acquired, or have been falsified or tampered with; or</i> <i>(moved from Art. 6(1)(b))</i>		<i>Compromise package:</i> <i>Reject amendment 84.</i>
133b		Amendment 85 <i>(cb) to ensure ethical recruitment in sectors essential for sustainable development suffering from a lack of qualified workers in countries of origin.</i> <i>(moved from Art. 6(4))</i>		<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> (cb) to ensure ethical recruitment in professions suffering from a lack of qualified workers in the countries of origin, including on the basis of an agreement listing professions for this purpose between the Union

²⁹ Directive 2009/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals (OJ L 168, 30.6.2009, p. 24).

		<i>(deleted from Art. 3(3))</i>		and its Member States and one or more third countries on the one hand or between the Member States and one or more third countries on the other hand. <i>(moved from Art. 6(4))</i> <i>(deleted from Art. 3(3))</i>
133c		Amendment 86 <i>(cc) where there is a high level of unemployment in a given occupation or sector which may be limited to a particular part of their territory and where the Member State in question has checked whether the concerned vacancy could be filled by the national or Union workforce, by third-country nationals lawfully resident in that Member State and already forming part of its labour market by virtue of Union or national law, or by EU long-term residents wishing to move to that Member State for highly skilled employment in accordance with Chapter</i>		

		<i>III of Directive 2003/109/EC.</i>		
133d		<i>The Member State concerned shall notify the Commission, at the latest one month in advance, of its intention to introduce such a check in a given occupation or sector, which may be limited to a particular part of their territory, for third-country nationals coming from third countries for the following six months, and shall submit to the Commission all relevant reasons justifying this decision. Member States shall involve the social partners in the assessment of the circumstances related to the domestic labour market. For each extension of six months the Member State concerned shall send a new justified notification. (moved from Art. 6(2))</i>		<i>Compromise package: Reject amendment 86</i>
133e			(d) the Member State has evidence or serious and objective grounds to establish that the third-country national would	<i>Compromise proposal: To be moved as a ground for withdrawal or non-renewal (Article 7, line 142b). [Rationale:</i>

			reside for purposes other than those for which he or she applies to be admitted.	The text is not new in the legal migration acquis. It is already in ICT (article 8 (1) (b)) and Students and researchers (article 21 (1) (d)) directives as a ground for non-renewal or withdrawal of the permit. The presidency proposal is to adopt the same approach on the Blue Card directive and move this ground to a new list of paragraph 2 of Article 7.]
133f		Amendment 87 <i>3a. Member States shall, where appropriate after consulting social partners, list those sectors of employment which face shortages of highly skilled workers. That list shall be notified to the Commission. Member States may modify such lists, where appropriate after consulting social partners.</i>		<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> <i>to insert the following either in new recital 29(aa) or in new recital 48(aa):</i> "In line with the priorities of the New Skills Agenda, in particular to improve skills matching and to tackle skills shortages, Member States are encouraged, where appropriate, after consultation of the social partners, to compile lists of sectors of employment which face shortages of highly [skilled/qualified] workers."

134.	4. Member States may reject an application for an EU Blue Card in order to ensure ethical recruitment in sectors suffering from a lack of qualified workers in the countries of origin.	Amendment 88 <i>Deleted</i> <i>(moved to 3(cb), AM 85)</i>	4. Member States may reject an application for an EU Blue Card in order to ensure ethical recruitment in sectors suffering from a lack of qualified workers in the countries of origin.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> Provision to be <i>deleted</i> , as it is moved under paragraph 3 point cb) of this Article. [= line 133b].
135.	5. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, any decision to reject an application shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and respect the principle of proportionality.	Amendment 89 5. [...] Any decision to reject an application <i>pursuant to paragraph 3</i> shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and [...] <i>shall be proportionate.</i>	5. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, any decision to reject an application shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and respect the principle of proportionality.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> 5. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, any decision to reject an application shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and respect the principle of proportionality.
136.	<i>Article 7</i> <i>Withdrawal or non-renewal of the EU Blue Card</i>	Amendment 90 <i>Article 7</i> <i>Withdrawal of the EU Blue Card</i>	<i>Article 7</i> <i>Withdrawal or non-renewal of the EU Blue Card</i>	
137.	1. Member States shall withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card where:	Amendment 91 1. Member States shall withdraw [...] an EU Blue Card where <i>the third-country national no longer holds a valid work contract for highly skilled employment or the qualifications required in</i>	1. Member States shall withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card where:	

		<i>accordance with points (b) and (c) of Article 5(1) or, where appropriate, his or her salary no longer meets the salary level or threshold as defined in accordance with Article 5, without prejudice to the situation in which the third-country national is unemployed.</i>		
138.	(a) the EU Blue Card or the documents presented have been fraudulently acquired, or have been falsified or tampered with;	Deleted (moved to 'may' clause, AM 98)	(a) the EU Blue Card or the documents presented have been fraudulently acquired, or have been falsified or tampered with;	<i>Compromise package: Keep Council mandate</i>
139.	(b) the third-country national no longer holds a valid work contract for highly skilled employment or the qualifications required by points (b) and (c) of Article 5(1) or his or her salary no longer meets the salary threshold as set in accordance with Article 5(2), (4) or (5), as applicable, without prejudice to Article 14.	Deleted (integrated into para 1 - see AM 91)	(b) the third-country national no longer holds a valid work contract for highly [...] qualified employment or the qualifications required by points (b) and (c) of Article 5(1) or his or her salary no longer meets the salary threshold as set in accordance with Article 5(2), (4) or (5), as applicable, without prejudice to Article 14;	<i>Compromise package:</i> (b) the third-country national no longer holds a valid work contract for highly [...] qualified employment, without prejudice to the situation in which the third-country national is unemployed; (ba) the third-country national no longer holds the qualifications required in points (b) and (aa) of Article 5(1); or

				(bc) the salary of the third-country national no longer meets the salary threshold as set in accordance with Article 5(2), (4) or (5), as applicable, without prejudice to paragraph 3aa of this Article and without prejudice to the situation in which the third-country national is unemployed.
139a			(c) the reasons of public policy, public security or public health so require.	15/01/21: The EP proposes to support this move In the same way, for non-renewal, while the EP mandate set this ground as mandatory, for reasons of consistency the Rapporteur agrees to place it under 'may' provisions (line 149f, Art. 7a(1), to move under para 2). Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 to move this provision to Article 7(2)a)
140.		Amendment 92		Compromise package: Keep Council mandate

	2. Member States may withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card issued on the basis of this Directive in any of the following cases:	Member States may withdraw [...] an EU Blue Card issued on the basis of this Directive [...]:	2. Member States may withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card [...] in any of the following cases:	
141.	(a) for reasons of public policy, public security or public health;		<i>Deleted</i>	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 to move the provision of Article 7(1)c) to Article 7(2)a):</i> (a) for reasons of public policy, public security or public health; <i>15/01/21: In the same way, for non-renewal, while the EP mandate set this ground as mandatory, for reasons of consistency the Rapporteur agrees to place it under 'may' provisions (line 149f, Art. 7a(1), to move under para 2).</i>
142.	(b) where appropriate, where the employer has failed to meet its legal obligations regarding social security, taxation, labour rights or working conditions;	Amendment 93 (shared competence) <i>deleted</i>	(b) where appropriate, where the employer has failed to meet its legal obligations regarding social security, taxation, labour rights or working conditions;	<i>Compromise package: Keep Council mandate</i>
142a			(ba) wherever the EU Blue Card holder does not have	<i>Compromise package:</i>

			sufficient resources to maintain himself or herself and, where applicable, the members of his or her family without having recourse to the social assistance system of the Member State concerned. Member States shall evaluate these resources by reference to their nature and regularity and may take into account the level of minimum national wages or minimum income and pensions as well as the number of family members of the EU Blue Card holder. Such evaluation shall take into account the contributions of the family members to the household income and it shall not take place during the period of unemployment referred to in Article 14;	Keep Council mandate
142b				<i>Compromise package:</i> (bb) where the EU Blue Card holder is residing in the Member State concerned for purposes other than those for which he or she was authorised to reside.

143.	(c) where the conditions in the applicable laws, collective agreements or practices in the relevant occupational branches for highly skilled employment are no longer met;	(EMPL)	(c) where the conditions in the applicable laws, collective agreements or practices in the relevant occupational branches for highly [...] qualified employment are no longer met;	15/01/21: The EP would agree to reintroduce this provision in Art. 7a as an optional ground for non-renewal (after 149h). Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21, however final wording will depend on the outcome of the political discussions on the “skills” issue.
144.	(d) where the third-country national has not communicated the changes referred to in Article 13(1), where applicable, and in Article 14(3);	Amendment 94	(d) where the third-country national has not communicated the changes referred to in Article 13(1) [...];	<i>Compromise package:</i> (d) where the [...] EU Blue Card holder has not [...] complied with the relevant procedures as provided for in Article 13 (1a) (a), (1b), and (1c);
145.	(e) where the third-country national no longer holds a valid travel document;	Amendment 95	(e) where the third-country national no longer holds a valid travel document, <i>provided that prior to withdrawing the EU Blue Card, the Member State had set a reasonable deadline for the third-country national concerned to obtain and</i>	Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17: (e) where the third-country national no longer holds a valid travel document, <i>provided that prior to withdrawing the EU Blue Card, the Member State had set a reasonable deadline for the third-country national concerned to obtain and</i>

		<i>present a valid travel document;</i>		<i>present a valid travel document;</i>
146.	(f) where the third-country national fails to comply with the conditions of mobility under this Chapter or repetitively makes use of the mobility provisions of this Chapter in an abusive manner.	Amendment 96 (f) where the third-country national fails to comply with the conditions of mobility under this Chapter [...];	(f) where the third-country national fails to comply with the conditions of mobility under [...] Chapter V or [...] makes use of the mobility provisions of [...] Chapter V in an abusive manner.	<i>Compromise package:</i> (f) where the third-country national fails to comply with the conditions of mobility under [...] Chapter V. <i>[Also see compromise proposal for recital 21, line 30]</i>
146a		Amendment 97 <i>(fa) where the third-country national has been unemployed for a period exceeding six consecutive months, except where such unemployment is the result of illness or disability; or</i>		<i>Compromise proposal:</i> Reject amendment 97
146b		Amendment 98 <i>(fb) where, with the knowledge of the third-country national concerned, the EU Blue Card or the documents presented for the purpose of admission pursuant to Article 5 have been fraudulently acquired, or</i>		<i>Compromise package:</i> Reject amendment 98

		<i>have been falsified or tampered with.</i>		
147.	Where an EU Blue Card is withdrawn or not renewed on the basis of point (e) of paragraph 2, Member States shall, prior to withdrawing or not renewing the EU Blue Card, set a reasonable deadline for the third-country national concerned to obtain and present a valid travel document.	Amendment 99 <i>deleted</i>	Where an EU Blue Card is withdrawn or not renewed on the basis of point (e) of paragraph 2, Member States shall, prior to withdrawing or not renewing the EU Blue Card, set a reasonable deadline for the third-country national concerned to obtain and present a valid travel document.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> Provision to be <i>deleted</i> , as it is merged with paragraph 2(e) of this Article.
148.	3. The lack of communication pursuant to Article 13(1) or 14(3) shall not be considered to be a sufficient reason for withdrawing or not renewing the EU Blue Card if the holder proves that the communication did not reach the competent authorities for a reason independent of the holder's will.	Amendment 100 3. The lack of communication pursuant to Article 13(1) [...] shall not be considered to be a sufficient reason for withdrawing the EU Blue Card if the holder proves that the communication did not reach the competent authorities for a reason independent of the holder's will.	3. The lack of communication pursuant to point (b) of the first subparagraph of Article 13(1b), the second subparagraph of Article 13(1b) or Article 14(3) shall not be considered to be a sufficient reason for withdrawing or not renewing the EU Blue Card if the holder proves that the communication did not reach the competent authorities for a reason independent of the holder's will.	<i>Compromise package:</i> 3. By way of derogation from point (d) of paragraph 2 of this Article, the lack of communication pursuant to point (a) of Article 13(1a) or to Article 13(1b) or (1c) shall not be considered to be a sufficient reason for withdrawing or not renewing the EU Blue Card if the holder proves that the communication did not reach the competent authorities for a reason independent of the holder's will.

148a			3a. Member States may decide not to withdraw or not to refuse to renew an EU Blue Card where the EU Blue Card holder temporarily and in any case for no longer than 12 months does not fulfil the criteria for admission in paragraph 2 of Article 5 or, where applicable, paragraph 4 or 5 of Article 5 as a result of illness, disability or parental leave.	<i>Compromise package:</i> Keep Council text
148aa				<i>Compromise package:</i> 3aa. The Blue Card may only be withdrawn or not renewed in case of unemployment of the Blue Card holder if: (a) the Blue Card holder cumulates a period of unemployment exceeding three months, where the third-country national has held a Blue Card for less than two years, or (b) the Blue Card holder cumulates a period of unemployment exceeding six months,

				where the third-country national has held a Blue Card for more than two years.
148b				<i>Compromise package:</i> 3ab. Where a Member State intends to withdraw or not renew the EU Blue Card in accordance with points (b) and (c) of paragraph 2, the competent authority shall notify the EU Blue Card holder in advance and set him or her a reasonable deadline of at least three months to seek new employment subject to the conditions set out in Article 13(1), (1a) and (1b).-The period to seek employment shall be six months where the EU Blue Card holder has been previously employed for, at least, two years.
149.		Amendment 101		<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i>

	4. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, any decision to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and respect the principle of proportionality.	4. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, any decision to withdraw [...] an EU Blue Card <i>taken pursuant to paragraph 2</i> shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and [...] <i>shall be proportionate.</i>	4. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, any decision to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and respect the principle of proportionality.	4. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, any decision to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and respect the principle of proportionality.
149a			5. For the purposes of Article 7(1) and (2), the Member State may conduct the appropriate checks on the EU Blue Card holder in accordance with national law, and on his employer, in accordance with national procedures.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> <i>Provision to be deleted and moved to Recital 20 (please see Recital 20 for wording suggestion).</i>
149b			<i>Article 7a Sanctions for non-compliance with conditions of admission</i>	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> <i>This amendment to be deleted, as new Article 12a will replace Council Article 7a and EP's amendments in article 15(6a) and (6b):</i>
149c			1. Member States may hold the employer responsible for failure to comply with the conditions of admission and residence laid down in this Directive.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> <i>This amendment to be deleted, as new Article 12a will replace Council Article 7a</i>

			2. The Member State concerned shall provide for sanctions where the employer is held responsible in accordance with paragraph 1. Those sanctions shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive.	<i>and EP's amendments in article 15(6a) and (6b):</i>
149d		Amendment 102 <i>Article 7 a Non-renewal of an EU Blue Card</i>		
149e		<i>1. Where an EU Blue Card holder or his or her employer applies to renew the EU Blue Card, Member States shall refuse to renew it where:</i>		
149f		<i>(a) the third-country national is considered to pose a threat to public policy, public security or public health;</i>		<i>See lines 127a, 139a and 141. 15/01/21: The EP proposes to take the same position as for withdrawal, where Council accepted to move the ground under optional ('may', para 2 of Art. 7) provisions)) (lines 139a and 141) In the same way, for non-renewal, while the EP mandate set this ground as mandatory, for reasons of consistency the Rapporteur</i>

				<i>agrees to place it under ‘may’ provisions (line 149f, Art. 7a(1), to move under para 2).</i>
149g		<i>(b) the third-country national no longer holds a valid work contract for highly skilled employment or the qualifications required by points (b) and (c) of Article 5(1) or, where appropriate, his or her salary no longer meets the salary level or threshold defined in accordance with Article 5.</i>		<i>15/01/21 - See line 139 - The EP can accept the wording and place proposed by the Council, except for point (bc) where we should insist on the EP wording of “without prejudice to the situation in which the third country national is unemployed” at the end of the paragraph. Also, the reference to “qualified” employment should remain in square brackets and the same applies for (ba) which should, along with EP mandate, refer to “qualifications or skills”. Same for line 149g, for non-renewal.</i>
149h		<i>2. Where an EU Blue Card holder or his or her employer applies to renew the EU Blue Card, Member States may refuse to renew it where:</i>		
149i		<i>(a) with the knowledge of the third-country national concerned, the EU Blue Card or the documents</i>		<i>15/01/21 The EP accepts the compromise text of line 127 for grounds for non-renewal as well. However, the EP</i>

		<i>presented for the purpose of admission pursuant to Article 5 have been fraudulently acquired, or have been falsified or tampered with;</i>		<i>would maintain its position on the optional character of this ground and its placement here. (See also lines 31, 127, 133a, 146b and 257)</i>
149j		<i>(b) the employer has repeatedly failed to meet its legal obligations regarding social security, taxation, labour rights or working conditions and has failed to rectify the situation within a reasonable time;</i>		
149k		<i>(c) the third-country national has been unemployed for a period exceeding six consecutive months;</i>		
149l		<i>(d) the third-country national no longer holds a valid travel document, provided that, prior to refusing to renew the EU Blue Card, the Member State concerned had set a reasonable deadline for the third-country national concerned to obtain and present a valid travel document; or</i>		
149m		<i>(e) under the EU Blue Card previously granted,</i>		

		<i>the third-country national failed to comply with the conditions of mobility under Chapter V.</i>		
149n		<i>Any decision to refuse to renew an EU Blue Card pursuant to this paragraph shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and shall be proportionate.</i>		
150.	Chapter III EU BLUE CARD AND PROCEDURE		Chapter III EU BLUE CARD AND PROCEDURE	
151.	<i>Article 8 EU Blue Card</i>		<i>Article 8 EU Blue Card</i>	
152.	1. Where a third-country national fulfils the criteria set out in Article 5 and where no ground for rejection pursuant to Article 6 applies, he or she shall be issued with an EU Blue Card.		1. Where a third-country national fulfils the criteria set out in Article 5 and where no ground for rejection pursuant to Article 6 applies, he or she shall be issued with an EU Blue Card.	
153.	Where a Member State only issues residence permits on its territory and the third-country national fulfils all the admission conditions laid down in this Directive, the Member State concerned shall issue him or her the requisite visa.		Where a Member State only issues residence permits on its territory and the third-country national fulfils all the admission conditions laid down in this Directive, the Member State concerned shall [...] grant the third-country national every facility to obtain the requisite visas.	<i>Compromise package:</i> Where a Member State only issues residence permits on its territory and the third-country national fulfils all the admission conditions laid down in this Directive, the Member State concerned shall issue him or her the requisite visa.

				[Rationale: Commission proposal is in line with Article 5(3) of the Students and Researchers directive]
154.	2. Member States shall set a standard period of validity for the EU Blue Card, which shall be at least 24 months. If the work contract covers a shorter period, the EU Blue Card shall be issued at least for the duration of the work contract plus three months. Where an EU Blue Card is renewed, its period of validity shall be at least 24 months.	Amendment 103 2. Member States shall set a standard period of validity for the EU Blue Card, which shall be at least 36 months. If the work contract covers a shorter period, the EU Blue Card shall be issued at least for the duration of the work contract plus three months. Where an EU Blue Card is renewed, its period of validity shall be at least [...] 36 months.	2. Member States shall set a standard period of validity for the EU Blue Card, which shall be at least 24 months. If the work contract covers a shorter period, the EU Blue Card shall be issued at least for the duration of the work contract plus three months but no longer than the standard period set out in accordance with the first sentence. [...]	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> 2. Member States shall set a standard period of validity for the EU Blue Card, which shall be at least 24 months. If the work contract covers a shorter period, the EU Blue Card shall be issued at least for the duration of the work contract plus three months but no longer than the standard period set out in accordance with the first sentence. If the period of validity of the travel document is shorter than the period set out in accordance with the first or the second sentence, the EU Blue Card shall be issued at least for the period of validity of the travel document. <i>See also Article 5(1)(d).</i>
155.	3. The EU Blue Card shall be issued by the competent authorities of the Member State		3. The EU Blue Card shall be issued by the competent	

	using the uniform format as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002. In accordance with point (a) 7.5-9 of the Annex to that Regulation, Member States shall indicate on the EU Blue Card the conditions for access to the labour market as set out in Article 13(1) of this Directive. Member States shall enter the words "EU Blue Card" under the heading "type of permit" in the residence permit.		authorities of the Member State using the uniform format as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002. In accordance with point (a) 7.5-9 of the Annex to that Regulation, Member States shall indicate on the EU Blue Card the conditions for access to the labour market as set out in Article 13(1) of this Directive. Member States shall enter the words "EU Blue Card" under the heading "type of permit" in the residence permit.	
155a			Member States may indicate additional information related to the employment relationship of the EU Blue Card holder in paper format, or store such data in electronic format as referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 and in point (a)16 of the Annex thereto.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> Member States may indicate additional information related to the employment relationship of the EU Blue Card holder in paper format, or store such data in electronic format as referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 and in point (a)16 of the Annex thereto.
156.	4. Where a Member State issues an EU Blue Card to a third-country national to whom it has granted international		4. Where a Member State issues an EU Blue Card to a third-country national to	

	protection, it shall enter the following remark in that third-country national's EU Blue Card, under the heading "Remarks": "International protection granted by [name of the Member State] on [date]". Where that Member State withdraws the international protection enjoyed by the EU Blue Card holder, it shall, where appropriate, issue a new EU Blue Card not containing that remark.		whom it has granted international protection, it shall enter the following remark in that third-country national's EU Blue Card, under the heading "Remarks": "International protection granted by [name of the Member State] on [date]". Where that Member State withdraws the international protection enjoyed by the EU Blue Card holder, it shall, where appropriate, issue a new EU Blue Card not containing that remark.	
156a		Amendment 104 <i>4a. Where a Member State issues an EU Blue Card to a third-country national who has applied for international protection in that Member State, it shall enter the following remark in that third-country national's EU Blue Card, under the heading "Remarks": "Applicant for International Protection in [name of the Member State] as from [date of lodging of</i>		

		<i>application for international protection]."</i>		
156b		<i>Should the EU Blue Card holder decide to withdraw his or her application for international protection upon obtaining the EU Blue Card, a new EU Blue Card shall be issued not containing that remark.</i>		
157.	5. Where an EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State to a third-country national who is a beneficiary of international protection in another Member State, the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card shall enter the remark "International protection granted by [name of the Member State] on [date]" in the EU Blue Card.		5. Where an EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State to a third-country national who is a beneficiary of international protection in another Member State, the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card shall enter the following remark in that third-country national's EU Blue Card, under the heading "Remarks": "International protection granted by [name of the Member State] on [date]" [...].	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> 5. Where an EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State to a third-country national who is a beneficiary of international protection in another Member State, the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card shall enter the following remark in that third-country national's EU Blue Card, under the heading "Remarks": "International protection granted by [name of the Member State] on [date]" [...].
158.	Before the Member State enters that remark, it shall notify the Member State to be mentioned in that remark of the issuance of the EU Blue Card and request that Member State to provide information as to whether the EU Blue Card holder is still a		Before the Member State enters that remark, it shall notify the Member State to be mentioned in that remark of the issuance of the EU Blue Card and request that	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> Before the Member State enters that remark, it shall notify the Member State to be

	beneficiary of international protection. The Member State mentioned in the remark shall reply no later than one month after receiving the request for information. Where international protection has been withdrawn by a final decision, the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card shall not enter that remark.		Member State to provide information as to whether the EU Blue Card holder is still a beneficiary of international protection. The Member State to be mentioned in the remark shall reply no later than one month after receiving the request for information. Where international protection has been withdrawn by a final decision, the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card shall not enter that remark.	mentioned in that remark of the issuance of the EU Blue Card and request that Member State to provide information as to whether the EU Blue Card holder is still a beneficiary of international protection. The Member State to be mentioned in the remark shall reply no later than one month after receiving the request for information. Where international protection has been withdrawn by a final decision, the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card shall not enter that remark.
159.	Where, in accordance with the relevant international instruments or national law, responsibility for the international protection of the EU Blue Card holder was transferred to the Member State after it issued an EU Blue Card in accordance with the first subparagraph, that Member State shall amend the remark accordingly within three months after the transfer.		Where, in accordance with the relevant international instruments or national law, responsibility for the international protection of the EU Blue Card holder was transferred to the Member State after it issued an EU Blue Card in accordance with the first subparagraph, that Member State shall amend the remark accordingly within three months after the transfer.	
159a		Amendment 105		

		<i>5a. Where an EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State to a third-country national who is an applicant for international protection in another Member State, the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card shall enter the remark "Applicant for International protection in [name of the Member State] as from [date of lodging of application for international protection]" in the EU Blue Card.</i>		
159b		<i>Before the Member State enters that remark, it shall notify the Member State to be mentioned in that remark of the issuance of the EU Blue Card and request that Member State to provide information as to whether the EU Blue Card holder is still maintaining his/her application for international protection. The Member State mentioned in the remark shall reply no later than one month after receiving the request for</i>		

		<i>information. Where the application for international protection has been withdrawn, the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card shall not enter that remark.</i>		
159c.				<i>Compromise package</i> 5a. Where an EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State on the basis of higher professional skills in occupations not listed in the Annex, it shall enter the following remark in that third-country national's EU Blue Card, under the heading "Remarks": "Non-Annex professional skills".
160.	6. During the period of its validity, the EU Blue Card shall entitle its holder to:		6. During the period of its validity, the EU Blue Card shall entitle its holder to:	
161.	(a) enter, re-enter and stay in the territory of the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card;		(a) enter, re-enter and stay in the territory of the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card;	
162.	(b) enjoy the rights recognised in this Directive.		(b) enjoy the rights recognised in this Directive.	
163.	<i>Article 9 Applications for admission</i>		<i>Article 9 Applications for admission</i>	
164.		Amendment 106		<i>Compromise package:</i>

	1. Member States shall determine whether applications for an EU Blue Card are to be made by the third-country national or by the employer. Member States may also allow an application from either of the two.	1. Member States shall [...] allow applications for an EU Blue Card [...] from either the third-country national or by the employer. [...] Where an application involves a recognised employer in accordance with Article 12, the employer shall lodge the application. An application [...] made by the employer shall not restrict the procedural rights enjoyed by the third-country national seeking the EU Blue Card during the application procedure, or the rights enjoyed by the EU Blue Card holder during the period of employment or the EU Blue Card renewal procedure.	1. Member States shall determine whether applications for an EU Blue Card are to be made by the third-country national or by the employer. Member States may also allow an application from either of the two.	<i>[Keep Council mandate and add a new recital 24a, as follows]</i> "Where a Member State has determined that an application for an EU Blue Card is to be made by the employer, it should not restrict the procedural safeguards enjoyed by the third-country national seeking the EU Blue Card during the application procedure, or the rights enjoyed by the EU Blue Card holder during the period of employment or the EU Blue Card renewal procedure."
165.	2. The application shall be considered and examined either when the third-country national concerned is residing outside the territory of the Member State to which he or she wishes to be admitted, or when he or she is already legally present in the territory of that Member State.		2. The application shall be considered and examined either when the third-country national concerned is residing outside the territory of the Member State to which he or she wishes to be admitted, or when he or she is already [...] residing in the territory of that Member State as	Compromise package: Council mandate

			holder of a valid residence permit or long-stay visa.	
165a		Amendment 107 <i>2a. Where an applicant for international protection is granted an EU Blue Card, his or her application for international protection shall be considered to be suspended for the duration of the validity of the EU Blue Card. In that regard, the Member State that issues the EU Blue Card shall inform the authorities of the Member State responsible for the application for international protection of the details, in particular, the date on which the EU Blue Card was issued and its duration.</i>		
165b		<i>Where an application for international protection is suspended, the Member State responsible for that application shall not consider the application to be implicitly withdrawn.</i>		
165c		<i>Where the EU Blue Card expires, the Member State responsible for the</i>		

		<i>application for international protection shall permit the person concerned to re-enter its territory for the purposes of the application for international protection.</i> <i>Where the family members of the person concerned joined him or her in the Member State which issued the EU Blue Card, they shall not be entitled to enter, or remain in, that Member State on the basis of the expired EU Blue Card.</i>	
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165d			3. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, a Member State may accept, in accordance with its national law, an application submitted when the third-country national concerned is not in possession of a valid residence permit or long-stay visa but is legally present in its territory.	Compromise package: Council mandate
166.	Article 10 Procedural safeguards		Article 10 Procedural safeguards	
167.	1. The competent authorities of the Member States shall adopt a decision on the application for an EU Blue Card and notify the applicant in writing, in accordance with the notification procedures laid down in the national law of the Member State concerned. The notification shall be made at the latest within 60 days of the date of submission of the application.	Amendment 108 The competent authorities of the Member States shall adopt a decision on the application for an EU Blue Card and notify the applicant in writing, in accordance with the notification procedures laid down in the national law of the Member State concerned. The notification shall be made <i>as soon as possible and</i> at the latest within [...] 30 days of the date of submission of <i>an initial application or an application for renewal</i> .	1. The competent authorities of the Member States shall adopt a decision on the application for an EU Blue Card and notify the applicant in writing, in accordance with the notification procedures laid down in the national law of the Member State concerned. The [...] decision shall be [...] adopted and notified at the latest within [...] 90 days of the date of submission of the complete application.	Compromise package: 1. The competent authorities of the Member States shall adopt a decision on the application for an EU Blue Card and notify the applicant in writing, in accordance with the notification procedures laid down in the national law of the Member State concerned. The [...] decision shall be [...] adopted and notified as soon as possible, but at the latest within [...] 90 days of the date of submission of the complete application.
168.		Amendment 109		Compromise package:

	Where the employer has been recognised in accordance with Article 12, the notification shall be made at the latest within 30 days of the date of submission of the application.	Where the employer has been recognised in accordance with Article 12, the notification shall be made <i>as soon as possible and</i> at the latest within [...] <i>15</i> days of the date of submission of <i>an initial application or an application for renewal</i> .	Where the employer has been recognised in accordance with Article 12, the [...] decision shall be [...] adopted and notified at the latest within 30 days of the date of submission of the application.	Where the employer has been recognised in accordance with Article 12, the [...] decision shall be [...] adopted and notified as soon as possible but at the latest within 30 days of the date of submission of the complete application.
169.	2. Under exceptional and duly justified circumstances linked to the complexity of the application, Member States may extend the maximum period referred to in paragraph 1 by 30 days. They shall inform the applicant of the extension before that maximum period has expired.		<i>Deleted</i>	<i>Compromise package: Keep Council mandate</i>
170.	3. Where the information or documents supplied in support of the application are inadequate or incomplete, the competent authorities shall notify the applicant of the additional information that is required and set a reasonable deadline for providing it. The period referred to in paragraph 1 shall be suspended until the authorities have received the additional information or documents required. If the additional information or documents have not been provided within the deadline, the application may be rejected.	Amendment 110 3. <i>Prior to rejecting an application for an EU Blue Card or an application to renew an EU Blue Card</i> , where the information or documents supplied in support of the <i>initial application or the application for renewal</i> are inadequate or incomplete, the competent authorities shall notify the applicant of the additional information that is required and set a reasonable deadline for	3. Where the information or documents supplied in support of the application are inadequate or incomplete, the competent authorities shall notify the applicant of the additional information that is required and set a reasonable deadline for providing it. The period referred to in paragraph 1 shall be suspended until the authorities have received the additional information or documents required. If the	<i>Compromise package: Reject amendment 110</i>

		providing it. The period referred to in paragraph 1 shall be suspended until the authorities have received the additional information or documents required. If the additional information or documents have not been provided within the deadline, the application may be rejected.	additional information or documents have not been provided within the deadline, the application may be rejected.	
171.	4. Any decision rejecting an application for an EU Blue Card, or a decision not to renew or to withdraw an EU Blue Card shall be notified in writing to the third-country national concerned and, where relevant, to his employer in accordance with the notification procedures set out in the relevant national law. The notification shall specify the reasons for the decision and the competent authority with which an appeal may be submitted as well as the time limit for submitting the appeal. Member States shall provide an effective judicial remedy, in accordance with national law.	Amendment 111 4. Any decision rejecting an application for an EU Blue Card, <i>any decision to withdraw an EU Blue Card,</i> or <i>any</i> decision not to renew an EU Blue Card shall be notified in writing to the third-country national concerned and, where relevant, to his <i>or her</i> employer in accordance with the notification procedures set out in the relevant national law. The notification shall specify the reasons, <i>in fact and in law,</i> for the decision and the competent authority with which an appeal may be submitted as well as the time limit for	4. Any decision rejecting an application for an EU Blue Card, or a decision not to renew or to withdraw an EU Blue Card shall be notified in writing to the third-country national concerned and, where relevant, to his employer in accordance with the notification procedures set out in the relevant national law. The notification shall specify the reasons for the decision and the competent authority with which an appeal may be submitted as well as the time limit for submitting the appeal. Member States shall provide an effective judicial	<i>Compromise package:</i> 4. Any decision rejecting an application for an EU Blue Card, <i>any decision to withdraw an EU Blue Card,</i> or <i>any</i> decision not to renew an EU Blue Card shall be notified in writing to the third-country national concerned and, where relevant, to his <i>or her</i> employer in accordance with the notification procedures set out in the relevant national law. The notification shall specify the reasons for the decision and the competent authority with which an appeal may be submitted as well as the time limit for submitting the appeal. Member States shall provide

		submitting the appeal. Member States shall provide an effective judicial remedy, in accordance with national law. <i>Any decision rejecting an application for an EU Blue Card shall not affect the right of a third-country national to submit a new application, in particular where the rejection was based on the conduct of the employer pursuant to points (a), (b) and (c) of Article 6(3).</i>	remedy, in accordance with national law.	an effective judicial remedy, in accordance with national law. <i>Compromise package: New recital 22a added</i> 22a. Any decision rejecting an application for an EU Blue Card should not affect the right of a third-country national to submit another application. The submission of such a new application should not authorise the person concerned to remain in the territory of the Member State concerned, except when provided by national law.
171a		Amendment 112 <i>4a. Any decision to withdraw an EU Blue Card shall take effect only after the Blue Card holder has been duly notified by the responsible authorities of the Member State concerned. Member States shall ensure that such notification occurs at least 30 days before the withdrawal takes effect.</i>		<i>Compromise package: Reject amendment 112</i>

172.	5. An applicant shall be allowed to submit an application for renewal before the expiry of the EU Blue Card. Member States may set a maximum deadline of 60 days prior to the expiry of the EU Blue Card for submitting an application for renewal.		5. An applicant shall be allowed to submit an application for renewal before the expiry of the EU Blue Card. Member States may set a maximum deadline of 90 days prior to the expiry of the EU Blue Card for submitting an application for renewal.	<i>Compromise package: Keep Council mandate</i>
173.	6. Where the validity of the EU Blue Card permit expires during the procedure for renewal, Member States shall allow the third-country national to stay on their territory until the competent authorities have taken a decision on the application.	Amendment 113 6. Where the validity of the EU Blue Card permit expires during the procedure for renewal, Member States shall allow the third-country national to stay on their territory <i>under the same conditions as laid down in this Directive</i> until the competent authorities have taken a decision on the application <i>for renewal</i> .	6. Where the validity of the EU Blue Card permit expires during the procedure for renewal, Member States shall allow the third-country national to stay on their territory until the competent authorities have taken a decision on the application.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> 6. Where the validity of the EU Blue Card expires during the procedure for renewal, Member States shall allow the third-country national to stay as an EU Blue Card holder on their territory until the competent authorities have taken a decision on the application. <i>See also Recital 24.</i>
173a		Amendment 114 <i>6a. During the initial application procedure, the procedure on withdrawal or the procedure on an application for renewal, Member States shall</i>		<i>Compromise package: Reject amendment 114</i>

		<i>prohibit any form of arbitrariness and/or discrimination in the decision-making process pursuant to Council Directive 76/207/EEC³⁰, Council Directive 2000/43/EC³¹ and Council Directive 2000/78/EC³².</i>	
173b			<i>Compromise package (harmonisation):</i> 7. Where an application for an EU Blue Card concerns a third-country national who holds a national residence permit for the purpose of highly qualified employment issued by the same Member State, the concerned Member State shall not: a) require the applicant to present the documents provided for in Article 5(1)(aa) or (b) if the relevant higher professional qualifications were already verified in the context of the

³⁰ Council Directive 76/207/EEC of 9 February 1976 on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions (OJ L 39, 14.2.1976, p. 40)

³¹ Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin (OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22).

³² Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation (OJ L 303, 2.12.2000, p. 16).

				application for the national residence permit; b) require the applicant to present the evidence provided for in Article 5(1)(e) unless the application is submitted in the context of a change of employment, in which case Article 13(1a) shall apply accordingly; c) apply Article 6(3)(a) unless the application is submitted in the context of a change of employment, in which case Article 13(1a) shall apply accordingly.
173c				<i>Compromise package (harmonisation):</i> 8. Where Member States issue national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment, they shall grant EU Blue Card holders the same procedural safeguards as those provided for under the national scheme, where these are more favourable than those provided for in paragraphs 1 to 6 of this Article.

174.	Article 11 Fees		Article 11 Fees	
175.	The level of fees required by Member States for the processing of applications shall not be disproportionate or excessive.	Amendment 115 <i>Member States may require the payment of fees for the handling of applications in accordance with this Directive. The level of fees required by a Member [...] State for the processing of applications shall not be disproportionate or excessive and overall not higher than the level of fees required for other residence and working permit applications in that Member State.</i>	The level of fees required by Member States for the processing of applications shall not be disproportionate or excessive.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 18.10.17:</i> <i>Member States may require the payment of fees for the handling of applications in accordance with this Directive. The level of fees required by a Member [...] State for the processing of applications shall not be disproportionate or excessive.</i>
175a				<i>Compromise package:</i> Where Member States issue national permits for the purpose of highly skilled employment, they shall not require EU Blue Card applicants to pay higher fees than those required from applicants under for national permits.

176.	<i>Article 12 Recognised employers</i>		<i>Article 12 Recognised employers</i>	
177.	1. Member States may decide to provide for recognition procedures for employers in accordance with their national law or administrative practice for the purpose of applying simplified procedures for obtaining an EU Blue Card.	Amendment 116 Member States [...] shall provide for recognition procedures for employers in accordance with their national law or administrative practice for the purpose of applying simplified procedures for obtaining an EU Blue Card. Member States shall provide clear and transparent information to the employers concerned.	1. Member States may decide to provide for recognition procedures for employers in accordance with their national law or administrative practice for the purpose of applying simplified procedures for obtaining an EU Blue Card.	<i>Compromise package: Keep Council mandate</i>
178.	Where a Member State decides to provide for recognition procedures, it shall provide clear and transparent information to the employers concerned about, among others, the conditions and criteria for approval, the period of validity of the recognition and the consequences of non-compliance with the conditions, including possible withdrawal and non-renewal, as well as any sanction applicable.		Where a Member State decides to provide for recognition procedures, it shall provide clear and transparent information to the employers concerned about, among others, the conditions and criteria for approval, the period of validity of the recognition and the consequences of non-compliance with the conditions, including possible withdrawal and non-renewal, as well as any sanction applicable.	
179.		Amendment 117		<i>Compromise package:</i>

	The recognition procedures shall not entail disproportionate or excessive administrative burden or costs for the employers.	The recognition procedures shall not entail disproportionate or excessive administrative burden or costs for the employers, <i>in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises</i> .	The recognition procedures shall not entail disproportionate or excessive administrative burden or costs for the employers.	The recognition procedures shall not entail disproportionate or excessive administrative burden or costs for the employers, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises.
180.	2. Member States may refuse to recognise an employer pursuant to paragraph 1, where the employer has been sanctioned for employment of illegally staying third-country nationals pursuant to Directive 2009/52/EC.	Amendment 118 Member States may refuse to recognise an employer pursuant to paragraph 1, where the employer has been sanctioned for employment of [...] <i>irregularly</i> staying third-country nationals pursuant to Directive 2009/52/EC <i>or where the employer has failed to meet its legal obligations regarding social security, taxation, labour rights or working conditions</i> .	<u>Moved to 3.</u> 3. Member States may refuse to recognise an employer pursuant to paragraph 1, where the employer has been sanctioned for [...]: (a) employment of illegally staying third-country nationals pursuant to Directive 2009/52/EC, or (b) undeclared work or illegal employment according to national law. When applying the first subparagraph, Member States shall take into account, in accordance with national law, the seriousness of the sanctioned conduct and the time elapsed since the sanction was imposed	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> 3. Member States may refuse to recognise an employer pursuant to paragraph 1, where the employer has been sanctioned for [...]: (a) employment of illegally staying third-country nationals pursuant to Directive 2009/52/EC, or (b) undeclared work or illegal employment according to national law, or (c) failing to meet its legal obligations regarding social security, taxation, labour rights or working conditions. Any decision to refuse to recognise an employer shall take account of the specific

				circumstances of the case, including the time elapsed since the sanction was imposed, and respect the principle of proportionality. <i>(The above was included in the agreed 4CT post-trilogue of December 2017; on 16/10/20 the EP indicated its wish to keep the word 'illegally' and 'illegal' in square brackets)</i>
181.	The simplified procedures shall include processing of applications as provided for in the second subparagraph of Article 10(1). Applicants shall be exempt from presenting the evidence referred to in points (c) and (e) of Article 5(1) and in Article 5(8).	Amendment 119 The simplified procedures shall include processing of applications as provided for in the second subparagraph of Article 10(1). Applicants shall be exempt from presenting the evidence referred to in point [...] (e) of Article 5(1) [...].	2. The simplified procedures shall include processing of applications as provided for in the second subparagraph of Article 10(1). Applicants shall be exempt from presenting one or more pieces of evidence referred to in points [...](b) [...] or (e) of Article 5(1) [...] or in Article 5(8).	<i>Compromise package:</i> 2. The simplified procedures shall include processing of applications as provided for in the second subparagraph of Article 10(1). Applicants shall be exempt from presenting one or more pieces of evidence referred to in points [...](aa) [...] or (e) of Article 5(1) [...] or in Article 5(8).
182.	3. Member States shall provide for measures to prevent possible abuses. Those measures may include monitoring, assessment at regular intervals and, where	Amendment 120 Member States shall [...] monitor and assess at regular intervals the functioning and	4. Member States shall provide for measures to prevent possible abuses. Those measures may include	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> <i>To be deleted, as covered by compromise suggestion on sanctions in new Article 12a.</i>

	appropriate, inspection in accordance with national law or administrative practice.	<i>effectiveness of the recognition procedures for employers under paragraph 1. To that end, without prejudice to Article 10(6a), they shall, where appropriate, [...] carry out inspections</i> in accordance with national law or administrative practice.	monitoring, assessment at regular intervals and, where appropriate, inspection in accordance with national law or administrative practice.	
183.	Member States may, among other measures, refuse to renew or decide to withdraw the status of recognised employer where the employer has not respected its obligations under this Directive or in cases where the recognition has been fraudulently acquired.		Member States may, among other measures, refuse to renew or decide to withdraw the status of recognised employer where the employer has not respected its obligations under this Directive or in cases where the recognition has been fraudulently acquired.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> Member States may [...] refuse to renew or decide to withdraw the status of recognised employer where the employer has not respected its obligations under this Directive or in cases where the recognition has been fraudulently acquired.
183a				<i>Compromise package (harmonisation)</i> 4. Where Member States issue national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment and have established recognition procedures for employers facilitating the issuance of such permits, they shall apply

				the same recognition procedures to applications for EU Blue Cards, where these procedures are more favourable than those provided for in paragraphs 1 to 3 of this Article.
183b				<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> Article 12a Sanctions against employers 1. Member States shall provide for sanctions against employers who have not fulfilled their obligations under this Directive. Those sanctions shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. 2. Member States shall provide for measures to prevent possible abuses of this Directive. Those measures shall include monitoring, assessment and, where appropriate, inspection in accordance with national law or administrative practice.
184.	Chapter IV RIGHTS		Chapter IV RIGHTS	

185.	Article 13 Labour market access		Article 13 Labour market access	
186.	1. EU Blue Card holders shall have full access to highly skilled employment in the Member State concerned. Member States may require that a change of employer and changes affecting the fulfilment of the criteria for admission as set out in Article 5 are communicated in accordance with procedures laid down by national law.	Amendment 121 EU Blue Card holders shall have full access to highly skilled employment in the Member State concerned. <i>During a period of unemployment, the EU Blue Card holder shall be allowed to seek and take up highly skilled employment.</i> Member States may require that a change of employer and changes affecting the fulfilment of the criteria for admission as set out in Article 5 are communicated in accordance with procedures laid down by national law.	1. EU Blue Card holders shall have [...] access to highly [...] qualified employment in the Member State concerned provided that the criteria for admission laid down in Article 5 are fulfilled.	<i>Compromise package:</i> 1. EU Blue Card holders shall have [...] access to highly [skilled/qualified] employment in the Member State concerned under the conditions provided for in this Article.
186a			1a. During the first two years of legal employment in the Member State concerned as an EU Blue Card holder, Member States may require that a change of employer be subject to the check set out in Article 6(2).	<i>Compromise proposal:</i> Deleted

186b			The right of the Blue Card holder to pursue the employment may be suspended until the outcome of this check confirms that the vacancy concerned could not be filled by the persons listed in Article 6(2).	<i>Compromise proposal:</i> Deleted
186c			1b. During the first two years of legal employment in the Member State concerned as an EU Blue Card holder, Member States may require that a change of employer and changes which may affect the fulfilment of the criteria for admission as set out in Article 5 are:	<i>Compromise package:</i> 1a. During the first twelve months of legal employment as an EU Blue Card holder, Member States may: (a) require that a change of employer or a change which may affect the fulfilment of the criteria for admission as set out in Article 5 be communicated to the competent authorities in the Member State concerned, in accordance with procedures laid down in national law, and (b) require that a change of employer be subject to the check of the labour market situation, where Member States carry out such a check in accordance with Article 6(3)(a).

				The right of the Blue Card holder to pursue the new employment may be suspended for a maximum of 30 days while the Member State concerned checks that the conditions for admission laid down in Article 5 are fulfilled and that the vacancy concerned could not be filled by the persons listed in Article 6(3)(a), and may oppose the change of employment within those 30 days. Where Member States suspend the right of the Blue Card holder to pursue the employment, they shall allow the EU Blue Card holder to remain on their territory for that period.
186d			(a) subject to the prior authorisation in writing of the competent authorities in the Member State concerned in accordance with procedures laid down by national law, to be granted or denied within 30 days of the date of the request made by the EU Blue Card holder; or	<i>Compromise package:</i> Deleted

186e			(b) communicated by the EU Blue Card holder or his or her prospective employer in accordance with procedures laid down by national law.	<i>Compromise package:</i> Deleted
186f				<i>Compromise package:</i> See line 186c
187.	The communication procedure shall not suspend the right of the EU Blue Card holder to pursue the employment.		After these first two years, the Member State may only require such changes to be communicated in accordance with the procedures laid down by national law. The communication procedure shall not suspend the right of the EU Blue Card holder to pursue the employment.	<i>Compromise package:</i> 1b. After these first twelve months, Member States may only require that a change of employer or a change affecting the fulfilment of the criteria for admission as set out in Article 5 be communicated in accordance with procedures laid down by national law. The communication procedure shall not suspend the right of the EU Blue Card holder to pursue the employment.
187a				<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21</i>

				<i>to move Article 14(2) and (3) here with the following wording (subject to a check on reference to the relevant Articles, depending on agreement on Art. 13 and whether Art. 14 is deleted (and its provisions integrated to the other provisions), which is in the EP mandate. (see also lines 144 and 194):</i> 1c. During a period of unemployment, the EU Blue Card holder shall be allowed to seek and take up employment in accordance with the conditions set out in this Article. The EU Blue Card holder shall communicate the beginning and, where appropriate, the end of the period of unemployment to the competent authorities of the Member State of residence, in accordance with the relevant national procedures. <i>Compromise package: Keep Council text</i>
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188.	2. Without prejudice to the criteria for admission set out in Article 5, EU Blue Card holders may engage in self-employed activity in parallel to the activity in highly skilled employment.	Amendment 122 (EMPL) 2. Without prejudice to the criteria for admission set out in Article 5, EU Blue Card holders may engage in self-employed activity, <i>under the same conditions as nationals and other Union citizens in the Member State which issued the Blue Card,</i> in parallel to the activity in highly skilled employment. <i>Any such activity shall be subsidiary to their employment under the EU Blue Card.</i>	2. Without prejudice to the criteria for admission set out in Article 5, Member States may allow EU Blue Card holders [...] to engage in self-employed activity in parallel to the activity in highly [...] qualified employment in accordance with conditions laid down in national law. Member States are entitled to limit the scope of allowed self-employed activity.	<i>Compromise package:</i> <i>[Keep Council text and add the last sentence of the EP amendment, and a new subparagraph with a view to ensure a level playing field regarding the access to self-employed activities, as set out in the following text]</i> 2. Without prejudice to the criteria for admission set out in Article 5, Member States may allow EU Blue Card holders [...] to engage in self-employed activity in parallel to the activity in highly [...] qualified employment in accordance with conditions laid down in national law. Member States are entitled to limit the scope of allowed self-employed activity. Any such activity shall be subsidiary to their employment under the EU Blue Card. Where Member States issue national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment, they shall guarantee EU Blue Card holders access to self-
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				employed activities under no less favourable conditions than those provided for under the national scheme.
188a			2a. Without prejudice to the criteria for admission set out in Article 5, Member States may allow EU Blue Card holders to engage in professional activities other than their main activity as an EU Blue Card holder in accordance with conditions laid down in national law.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21</i>
189.	3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States may retain restrictions on access to employment, where the employment activities entail involvement in the exercise of public authority and the responsibility for safeguarding the general interest of the State.		3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States may retain restrictions on access to employment [...] provided such employment activities entail occasional involvement in the exercise of public authority and the responsibility for safeguarding the general interest of the State and where, in accordance with existing national or Union law these activities are reserved to nationals.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 on the following text, provided a recital confirms that this is a standstill clause:</i> 3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States may retain restrictions on access to employment [...] provided such employment activities entail the exercise, or at least occasional involvement in the exercise, of public authority and the responsibility for safeguarding the general interest of the State <u>or</u> where,

				in accordance with existing national or Union law, these employment activities are reserved to nationals, <u>Union citizens or EEA citizens.</u>
189a			3a. Member States may retain restrictions on access to employment activities, in cases where, in accordance with existing national law, these activities are reserved to nationals, Union citizens or EEA citizens.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 on merged text in line 189, provided a recital confirms that this is a standstill clause. 11 December 2020: Member States reported back the following professions that would fall under Article 13(3a):</i> • <i>Barristers (Austria; Belgium – access for TCNs only after 6 years; Bulgaria; Lithuania)</i> • <i>Notaries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Poland)</i> • <i>Editors in chief (France; Poland)</i> • <i>Private security companies (France)</i> • <i>Managing directors of casinos (France)</i> • <i>Captains of commercial vessels under Finnish flag (Finland)</i>

				• <i>Elite athletes (Netherlands)</i> • <i>People working in the adult sex industry (Netherlands)</i>
190.	4. This Article shall apply without prejudice to the principle of preference for Union citizens where applicable under the provisions of the relevant Acts of Accession.	(EMPL)	4. This Article shall apply without prejudice to the principle of preference for Union citizens where applicable under the provisions of the relevant Acts of Accession.	
191.	<i>Article 14 Temporary unemployment</i>	Amendment 123 (shared competence) deleted	<i>Article 14 Temporary unemployment</i>	<i>Compromise proposal: Delete Article</i>
192.	1. Unemployment in itself shall not constitute a reason for withdrawing an EU Blue Card, unless the period of unemployment exceeds three consecutive months, or where the unemployment occurs more than once during the period of validity of an EU Blue Card.	deleted <i>(moved to Article 7(2): where the third-country national has been unemployed for a period exceeding six consecutive months, except where such unemployment is the result of illness or disability; or)</i>	1. Unemployment in itself shall not constitute a reason for withdrawing an EU Blue Card, unless the period of unemployment exceeds three consecutive months, or where the unemployment occurs more than once during the period of validity of an EU Blue Card.	<i>Compromise proposal: Delete Article Moved to Article 7(2)(fa) [= line 146a].</i>
193.	2. During the period referred to in paragraph 1, the EU Blue Card holder shall be allowed to seek and take up employment in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 13.	deleted <i>Moved to Article 13(1): EU Blue Card holders shall have full access to highly skilled employment in the Member State</i>	2. During the period referred to in paragraph 1, the EU Blue Card holder shall be allowed to seek and take up employment in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 13.	<i>Compromise proposal: Delete Article Moved to Article 13(1c) [= new line 187a].</i>

		<i>concerned. During a period of unemployment, the EU Blue Card holder shall be allowed to seek and take up highly skilled employment. Member States may require that a change of employer and changes affecting the fulfilment of the criteria for admission as set out in Article 5 are communicated in accordance with procedures laid down by national law.</i>		
194.	3. The EU Blue Card holder shall communicate the beginning and, where appropriate, the end of the period of unemployment to the competent authorities of the Member State of residence, in accordance with the relevant national procedures.	<i>deleted</i>	3. The EU Blue Card holder shall communicate the beginning and, where appropriate, the end of the period of unemployment to the competent authorities of the Member State of residence, in accordance with the relevant national procedures.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 on deletion</i>
194a			4. Where Member States require a prior authorisation pursuant to point (a) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1b of Article 13, they shall allow the EU Blue Card	<i>Compromise proposal: Delete Article Moved to new subparagraph 2 of Article 13(1b) [= line 186f].</i>

			holder to remain on their territory until the necessary authorisation has been granted or denied.	
195.	<i>Article 15</i> <i>Equal treatment</i>		<i>Article 15</i> <i>Equal treatment</i>	
196.	1. EU Blue Card holders shall enjoy equal treatment with nationals of the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card, as regards:	(EMPL)	1. EU Blue Card holders shall enjoy equal treatment with nationals of the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card, as regards:	
197.	(a) terms of employment, including the minimum working age, and working conditions, including pay and dismissal, working hours, leave and holidays, as well as health and safety requirements at the workplace;	(EMPL)	(a) terms of employment, including the minimum working age, and working conditions, including pay and dismissal, working hours, leave and holidays, as well as health and safety requirements at the workplace;	
198.	(b) freedom of association and affiliation and membership of an organisation representing workers or employers or of any organisation whose members are engaged in a specific occupation, including the rights and benefits conferred by such organisations, without prejudice to the national provisions on public policy and public security;	(EMPL)	(b) freedom of association and affiliation and membership of an organisation representing workers or employers or of any organisation whose members are engaged in a specific occupation, including the rights and benefits conferred by such organisations, without prejudice to the national provisions on public policy and public security;	

199.	(c) education and vocational training;	(EMPL)	(c) education and vocational training;	
200.	(d) recognition of diplomas, certificates and other professional qualifications in accordance with the relevant national procedures;	Amendment 124 (EMPL) (d) recognition of diplomas, certificates and other professional qualifications, <i>including the non-formal acquisition of skills</i> , in accordance with the relevant national procedures;	(d) recognition of diplomas, certificates and other professional qualifications in accordance with the relevant national procedures;	<i>Compromise text:</i> Keep Council mandate
201.	(e) branches of social security, as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004;	(EMPL)	(e) branches of social security, as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004;	
202.	(f) access to goods and services and the supply of goods and services made available to the public, including procedures for obtaining housing, as well as information and counselling services afforded by employment offices.	(EMPL)	(f) access to goods and services and the supply of goods and services made available to the public, including procedures for obtaining housing, as well as information and counselling services afforded by employment offices.	
202a		Amendment 125 (EMPL) <i>(fa) access to justice and support if they face any kind of discrimination, including in the labour market by applying the principles and safeguards referred to in Directive</i>		<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 that EP amendment will be withdrawn and a new Recital 5a added:</i> “Member States should give effect to this Directive without discrimination on the basis of sex, race, colour,

		2000/43/EC and Directive 2000/78/EC;		ethnic or social origin, genetic characteristics, language, religion or beliefs, political or other opinions, membership of a national minority, fortune, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation in accordance, in particular, with Council Directive 2000/43/EC and Council Directive 2000/78/EC.”
202b		Amendment 126 (EMPL) <i>(fb) non-discrimination on the grounds of origin, gender, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.</i>		<i>Compromise package:</i> <i>Reject amendment</i>
203.	2. With respect to point (c) of paragraph 1 the Member State concerned may restrict equal treatment as regards study and maintenance grants and loans or other grants and loans regarding secondary and higher education and vocational training. Access to university and post-secondary education may be subject to specific prerequisites in accordance with national law.	(EMPL)	2. With respect to point (c) of paragraph 1 the Member State concerned may restrict equal treatment as regards study and maintenance grants and loans or other grants and loans regarding secondary and higher education and vocational training. Access to university and post-secondary education may be subject to specific prerequisites in accordance with national law.	

203a			With respect to point (e) of paragraph 1, the Member State concerned may restrict equal treatment as regards family benefits in relation to family members who reside in a third country.	<i>Compromise package:</i> Delete Council proposal
204.	With respect to point (f) of paragraph 1 the Member State concerned may restrict equal treatment as regards procedures for obtaining housing. This shall be without prejudice to the freedom of contract in accordance with Union and national law.	(EMPL)	With respect to point (f) of paragraph 1 the Member State concerned may restrict equal treatment as regards procedures for obtaining housing. This shall be without prejudice to the freedom of contract in accordance with Union and national law.	
205.	3. EU Blue Card holders moving to a third country, or their survivors who reside in a third country and who derive rights from the EU Blue Card holder, shall receive, in relation to old age, invalidity and death, statutory pensions based on the EU Blue Card holder's previous employment and acquired in accordance with the legislation referred to in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004, under the same conditions and at the same rates as the nationals of the Member States concerned when they move to a third country.	(EMPL)	3. EU Blue Card holders moving to a third country, or their survivors who reside in a third country and who derive rights from the EU Blue Card holder, shall receive, in relation to old age, invalidity and death, statutory pensions based on the EU Blue Card holder's previous employment and acquired in accordance with the legislation referred to in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004, under the same conditions and at the same	

			rates as the nationals of the Member States concerned when they move to a third country.	
206.	4. The right to equal treatment laid down in paragraph 1 shall be without prejudice to the right of the Member State to withdraw or to refuse to renew the EU Blue Card in accordance with Article 7.	(EMPL)	4. The right to equal treatment laid down in paragraph 1 shall be without prejudice to the right of the Member State to withdraw or to refuse to renew the EU Blue Card in accordance with Article 7.	
207.	5. This Article shall not apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement under Union law in the Member State concerned.	(EMPL)	5. This Article shall not apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement under Union law in the Member State concerned.	
208.	6. This Article shall apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of international protection only when they reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection.	(EMPL)	6. This Article shall apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of international protection only when they reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection.	
208a		Amendment 127 (EMPL) <i>6a. Member States shall hold the employer of the EU Blue Card holder responsible for any repeated or significant</i>		<i>To be deleted, part of compromise for new Article 12a.</i>

		<i>failure to comply with Article 5(3) and Article 15.</i>		
208b		<i>The Member State concerned shall provide for sanctions where the employer is held responsible. Those sanctions shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive.</i>		<i>To be deleted, part of compromise for new Article 12a.</i>
208c		Amendment 128 (EMPL) <i>6b. Member States shall provide for measures to prevent possible abuses of Article 5(3) and Article 15. Those measures shall include monitoring, assessment at regular intervals and, where appropriate, inspection in accordance with national law or administrative practice.</i>		<i>To be deleted, part of compromise for new Article 12a.</i>
208d				<i>Compromise package (harmonisation)</i> <i>7. Where Member States issue national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment, they shall grant EU Blue Card holders the same equal treatment rights as the ones</i>

				granted to holders of national residence permits, where these are more favourable than those provided for in this Article.
209.	<i>Article 16 Family members</i>		<i>Article 16 Family members</i>	
210.	1. Council Directive 2003/86/EC shall apply with the derogations laid down in this Article.		1. Council Directive 2003/86/EC shall apply with the derogations laid down in this Article.	
211.	2. By way of derogation from Articles 3(1) and 8 of Directive 2003/86/EC, family reunification shall not be made dependent on the requirement of the EU Blue Card holder having reasonable prospects of obtaining the right of permanent residence and having a minimum period of residence.		2. By way of derogation from Articles 3(1) and 8 of Directive 2003/86/EC, family reunification shall not be made dependent on the requirement of the EU Blue Card holder having reasonable prospects of obtaining the right of permanent residence [...], to hold a residence permit for a period of validity of one year or more or having a minimum period of residence.	<i>Compromise package: Keep Council mandate</i>
211a		Amendment 129 <i>2a. By way of derogation from point (a) of Article 3(2) of Directive 2003/86/EC, that directive, together with the derogations laid down in</i>		

		<i>this Article, shall apply to EU Blue Card holders whose application for international protection is suspended for the duration of validity of the Blue Card pursuant to Article 9(2a) of this Directive.</i>		
212.	3. By way of derogation from the third subparagraph of Article 4(1) and from the second subparagraph of Article 7(2) of Directive 2003/86/EC, the integration conditions and measures referred to therein may only be applied after the persons concerned have been granted family reunification.		3. By way of derogation from the third subparagraph of Article 4(1) and from the second subparagraph of Article 7(2) of Directive 2003/86/EC, the integration conditions and measures referred to therein may only be applied after the persons concerned have been granted family reunification.	
213.	4. By way of derogation from the first subparagraph of Article 5(4) of Directive 2003/86/EC, where the conditions for family reunification are fulfilled and the applications were submitted simultaneously, residence permits for family members shall be granted at the same time as the EU Blue Card. Where the family members join the EU Blue Card holder after the EU Blue Card has been granted to him or her and where the conditions for family reunification are fulfilled, residence permits shall be granted	Amendment 130 4. By way of derogation from the first subparagraph of Article 5(4) of Directive 2003/86/EC, where the conditions for family reunification are fulfilled and the applications were submitted simultaneously, residence permits for family members shall be granted at the same time as the EU Blue Card. Where the family members join	4. By way of derogation from the first subparagraph of Article 5(4) of Directive 2003/86/EC, where the conditions for family reunification are fulfilled and the complete applications were submitted simultaneously, [...] the decision for family members shall be [...] adopted and notified at the same time as the EU Blue Card. Where the	<i>Compromise package:</i> 4. By way of derogation from the first subparagraph of Article 5(4) of Directive 2003/86/EC, where the conditions for family reunification are fulfilled and the complete applications were submitted simultaneously, [...] the decision for family members shall be [...] adopted and notified at the same time as the EU Blue Card. Where the

	at the latest within 60 days from the date on which the application was submitted.	the EU Blue Card holder after the EU Blue Card has been granted to him or her and where the conditions for family reunification are fulfilled, residence permits shall be granted at the latest within [...] 30 days from the date [...] of submission of the application [...].	family members join the EU Blue Card holder after the EU Blue Card has been granted to him or her and where the conditions for family reunification are fulfilled, [...] the decision shall be [...] adopted and notified at the latest within [...] 90 days from the date on which the complete application was submitted. Article 10(3) of this Directive shall apply accordingly.	family members join the EU Blue Card holder after the EU Blue Card has been granted to him or her and where the conditions for family reunification are fulfilled, [...] the decision shall be [...] adopted and notified as soon as possible but at the latest within [...] 90 days from the date on which the complete application was submitted. Article 10(3) of this Directive shall apply accordingly.
214.	5. By way of derogation from Article 13(2) and (3) of Directive 2003/86/EC, the duration of validity of the residence permits of family members shall be the same as that of the EU Blue Card insofar as the period of validity of their travel documents allows it.		5. By way of derogation from Article 13(2) and (3) of Directive 2003/86/EC, the duration of validity of the residence permits of family members shall be the same as that of the EU Blue Card insofar as the period of validity of their travel documents allows it.	
215.	6. By way of derogation from Article 14(1)(b) and (2) of Directive 2003/86/EC, Member States shall not apply any time limit in respect of access to the labour market. Without prejudice to the restrictions referred to in Article 13(3) of this Directive, family members shall have		6. By way of derogation from Article 14 [...] (2) of Directive 2003/86/EC, Member States shall not apply any time limit in respect of access to the labour market. By way of derogation from Article	<i>Compromise package:</i> <i>Council to propose a recital to clarify the nature of the requirements under national law referred to.</i>

	access to any employed or self-employed activity in the Member State concerned.		14(1)(b) of that Directive, and without prejudice to the restrictions referred to in Article 13(3) of this Directive, family members shall have access to any [...] employment, and to self-employed activity in accordance with applicable requirements under national law, in the Member State concerned.	
216.	Before a family member is granted access to employment, Member States may check whether the concerned vacancy could not be filled by national or Union workforce, by third-country nationals lawfully resident in that Member State and already forming part of its labour market by virtue of Union or national law, or by EU long-term residents wishing to move to that Member State for employment in accordance with Chapter III of Directive 2003/109/EC.	Amendment 131 <i>deleted</i>	Before a family member is granted access to employment, Member States may check whether the concerned vacancy could not be filled by national or Union workforce, by third-country nationals lawfully resident in that Member State and already forming part of its labour market by virtue of Union or national law, or by EU long-term residents wishing to move to that Member State for employment in accordance with Chapter III of Directive 2003/109/EC.	<i>Compromise package: provision deleted</i>
217.	7. By way of derogation from Article 15(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC, for the purposes		7. By way of derogation from Article 15(1) of Directive	

	of calculation of the five years of residence required for the acquisition of an autonomous residence permit, residence in different Member States shall be cumulated.		2003/86/EC, for the purposes of calculation of the five years of residence required for the acquisition of an autonomous residence permit, residence in different Member States shall be cumulated. Member States may require two years of legal and continuous residence immediately prior to the submission of the relevant application within the territory of the Member State where the application for an autonomous residence permit is submitted.	
218.	8. The provisions set out in Article 17 concerning the accumulation of periods of residence in different Member States by the EU Blue Card holder for the purpose of acquiring the EU long-term resident status shall apply by analogy.		8. The provisions set out in Article 17 concerning the accumulation of periods of residence in different Member States by the EU Blue Card holder for the purpose of acquiring the EU long-term resident status shall apply by analogy.	
219.	9. This Article shall not apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement under Union law in the Member State concerned.		9. This Article shall not apply to family members of those EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement under Union law in the Member State concerned.	<i>Compromise package: Keep Council text</i>

220.	10. This Article shall apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of international protection only when they reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection.	Amendment 132 10. This Article shall apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of international protection [...] <i>in respect of any more favourable condition for family members which could derive from this Directive, including</i> when they reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection.	10. This Article shall apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of international protection only when they reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection.	<i>Compromise package:</i> 10. This Article shall apply to family members of those EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of international protection only when those EU Blue Card holders reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection.
220a				<i>Compromise package (harmonisation):</i> 11. Where Member States issue national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment, they shall grant EU Blue Card holders and their family members the same rights as those granted to holders of national residence permits and their family members, where these are more favourable than those provided for in this Article.

221.	<i>Article 17</i> <i>EU long-term resident status for EU Blue Card holders</i>		<i>Article 17</i> <i>EU long-term resident status for EU Blue Card holders</i>	
222.	1. Directive 2003/109/EC shall apply with the derogations laid down in this Article.		1. Directive 2003/109/EC shall apply with the derogations laid down in this Article.	
223.	2. By way of derogation from Article 4(1) of Directive 2003/109/EC, Member States shall grant EU long-term resident status to third-country nationals who have legally and continuously resided as EU Blue Card holders within their territory for three years immediately prior to the submission of the relevant application.		2. By way of derogation from Article 4(1) of Directive 2003/109/EC, Member States [...] may grant EU long-term resident status to third-country nationals who have legally and continuously resided as EU Blue Card holders within their territory for three years immediately prior to the submission of the relevant application.	<i>Compromise package:</i> <i>Deleted</i>
224.	The EU long-term resident status granted in accordance with the first subparagraph of this paragraph may be withdrawn before the period of legal and continuous residence of five years referred to in Article 4(1) of Directive 2003/109/EC within the territory of the Member States has been completed, where the third-country national becomes unemployed and does not have sufficient resources to maintain himself or herself and, where applicable, the members of his or her family, without having	Amendment 133 <i>deleted</i>	The EU long-term resident status granted in accordance with the first subparagraph of this paragraph may be withdrawn before the period of legal and continuous residence of five years referred to in Article 4(1) of Directive 2003/109/EC within the territory of the Member States has been completed, where the third-country national [...] does	<i>Compromise package:</i> <i>Deleted</i>

	recourse to the social assistance system of the Member State concerned.		not have sufficient resources to maintain himself or herself and, where applicable, the members of his or her family, without having recourse to the social assistance system of the Member State concerned. Member States shall not withdraw the EU long-term resident status where the withdrawal would be disproportionate taking into account the reasons underlying the lack of sufficient resources of the third-country national concerned.	
225.	However, the EU long-term resident status shall not be withdrawn where the third-country national:	Amendment 134 <i>deleted</i>	<i>deleted</i>	<i>Compromise package:</i> Deleted
226.	(a) is temporarily unable to work as the result of an illness or accident;	Amendment 134 <i>deleted</i>	<i>deleted</i>	<i>Compromise package:</i> Deleted
227.	(b) is in duly recorded involuntary unemployment and has registered as job-seeker with the relevant employment office;	Amendment 134 <i>deleted</i>	<i>deleted</i>	<i>Compromise package:</i> Deleted
228.	(c) begins vocational training which, unless the third-country national concerned is involuntarily unemployed, shall be related to the previous employment.	Amendment 134 <i>deleted</i>	<i>deleted</i>	<i>Compromise package:</i> Deleted
229.	3. By way of derogation from Article 4(1) of Directive 2003/109/EC, the EU Blue		3. By way of derogation from Article 4(1) of Directive	

	Card holder having made use of the possibility provided for in Article 20 of this Directive is allowed to cumulate periods of residence in different Member States in order to fulfil the requirement concerning the duration of residence, if that holder has accumulated:		2003/109/EC, the EU Blue Card holder having made use of the possibility provided for in Article 20 of this Directive is allowed to cumulate periods of residence in different Member States in order to fulfil the requirement concerning the duration of residence, if that holder has accumulated:	
230.	(a) five years of legal and continuous residence within the territory of the Member States; and		(a) five years of legal and continuous residence as an EU Blue Card holder within the territory of the Member States; and	<i>Compromise package:</i> (a) five years of legal and continuous residence as a holder of an EU Blue Card, of a national permit for highly skilled workers, an authorisation as a student or researcher in accordance with Directive (EU) 2016/801 or as a beneficiary of international protection within the territory of the Member States; <i>[As part of the compromise package, a recital would clarify that the rules of the Long-Term Residence Directive must apply accordingly, for example for students only half of the periods of residence for study</i>

				<i>purposes may be taken into account.] see line 231a</i>
231.	(b) two years of legal and continuous residence as an EU Blue Card holder immediately prior to the submission of the relevant application within the territory of the Member State where the application for the EU long-term resident status is submitted.		(b) two years of legal and continuous residence as an EU Blue Card holder immediately prior to the submission of the relevant application within the territory of the Member State where the application for the EU long-term resident status is submitted.	
231a.				Only half of the periods of residence for study purposes may be taken into account in the calculation of the period referred to in paragraph 3.
232.	4. For the purpose of calculating the five years period of legal and continuous residence in the Union referred to in point (a) of paragraph 3 and by way of derogation from the first subparagraph of Article 4(3) of Directive 2003/109/EC, periods of absence from the territory of the Member States shall not interrupt the five years period if those periods of absence are shorter than twelve consecutive months and do not exceed in total eighteen months within the five years period of legal and continuous residence.		4. For the purpose of calculating the five years period of legal and continuous residence in the Union referred to in point (a) of paragraph 3 and by way of derogation from the first subparagraph of Article 4(3) of Directive 2003/109/EC, periods of absence from the territory of the Member States shall not interrupt the five years period if those periods of absence are shorter than twelve consecutive	

			months and do not exceed in total eighteen months within the five years period of legal and continuous residence.	
233.	5. By way of derogation from Article 9(1)(c) of Directive 2003/109/EC, Member States shall extend to 24 consecutive months the period of absence from the territory of the Member States which is allowed to an EU long-term resident holder of a long-term residence permit with the remark referred to in Article 18(2) of this Directive and of his family members having been granted the EU long-term resident status.	Amendment 135 <i>deleted</i>	5. By way of derogation from Article 9(1)(c) of Directive 2003/109/EC, Member States shall extend to 24 consecutive months the period of absence from the territory of the Member States which is allowed to an EU long-term resident holder of a long-term residence permit with the remark referred to in Article 18(2) of this Directive and of his family members having been granted the EU long-term resident status.	<i>Compromise package:</i> Keep Council mandate
234.	6. The derogations set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 may be restricted to cases where the third-country national concerned can present evidence that he has been absent from the territory of the Member States to exercise an economic activity in an employed or self-employed capacity, or to perform a voluntary service, or to study in his own country of origin.	Amendment 136 <i>deleted</i>	6. The derogations set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 may be restricted to cases where the third-country national concerned can present evidence that he has been absent from the territory of the Member States to exercise an economic activity in an employed or self-	<i>Compromise package:</i> Delete

			employed capacity, or to perform a voluntary service, or to study in his own country of origin.	
235.	7. Point (f) of Article 15(1), Article 19 and, where applicable, Articles 16 and 21 shall apply to holders of a long-term residence permit with the remark referred to in Article 18(2).		7. [...] Article 15(3) , Article 19 and, where applicable, Articles 16 and 21 shall apply to holders of a long-term residence permit with the remark referred to in Article 18(2).	<i>Compromise package:</i> 7. Point (f) of Article 15(1), Article 15(3) , Article 19 and, where applicable, Articles 16 and 21 shall apply to holders of a long-term residence permit with the remark referred to in Article 18(2).
236.	8. Where the EU long-term resident who holds a long-term residence permit with the remark referred to in Article 18(2) of this Directive is exercising his or her right to move to a second Member State pursuant to Chapter III of Directive 2003/109/EC, Article 14(3) and (4) and point (b) of Article 15(2) of that Directive shall not apply. The second Member State may apply measures in accordance with Article 20(6) of this Directive.		8. Where the EU long-term resident who holds a long-term residence permit with the remark referred to in Article 18(2) of this Directive is exercising his or her right to move to a second Member State pursuant to Chapter III of Directive 2003/109/EC, [...] Article 14 (4) of that Directive shall not apply. [...]	<i>Compromise package:</i> Where the EU long-term resident who holds a long-term residence permit with the remark referred to in Article 18(2) of this Directive is exercising his or her right to move to a second Member State pursuant to Chapter III of Directive 2003/109/EC, Article 14(3) and (4) of that Directive shall not apply. The second Member State may apply measures in accordance with Article 20(6) of this Directive.

237.	<i>Article 18</i> <i>Long-term residence permit</i>		<i>Article 18</i> <i>Long-term residence permit</i>	
238.	1. EU Blue Card holders who fulfil the conditions set out in Article 17 of this Directive for the acquisition of the EU long-term resident status shall be issued with a residence permit in accordance with Article 1(2)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002.		1. EU Blue Card holders who fulfil the conditions set out in Article 17 of this Directive for the acquisition of the EU long-term resident status shall be issued with a residence permit in accordance with Article 1(2)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002.	
239.	2. Member States shall enter the words "Former EU Blue Card holder" in the residence permit referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article under the heading "remarks".		2. Member States shall enter the words "Former EU Blue Card holder" in the residence permit referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article under the heading "remarks".	
240.	Chapter V MOBILITY BETWEEN MEMBER STATES		Chapter V MOBILITY BETWEEN MEMBER STATES	
241.	<i>Article 19</i> <i>Business activity in a second Member State</i>	Amendment 137 <i>Short-term mobility for EU Blue Card holders</i>	<i>Article 19</i> <i>Short-term mobility in a second Member State</i>	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> <i>Article 19</i> Short-term mobility
242.	1. Where a third-country national who holds a valid EU Blue Card issued by a Member State applying the Schengen acquis in full enters and stays in one or several second Member States for a period of 90 days in any 180-day period for the purpose of carrying out a business activity, the second Member State shall not require any authorisation for exercising such		1. Where a third-country national who holds a valid EU Blue Card issued by a Member State applying the Schengen acquis in full enters and stays in one or several second Member States for a period of 90 days in any 180-day period for the purpose of	

	activity other than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State.		carrying out a business activity, the second Member State shall not require any authorisation for exercising such activity other than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State.	
243.	2. A third-country national who holds a valid EU Blue Card issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full shall be entitled to enter and stay for the purpose of carrying out a business activity in one or several second Member States for up to 90 days in any 180-day period on the basis of the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State. The second Member State shall not require any authorisation for exercising the business activity other than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State.	Amendment 138 2. A third-country national who holds a valid EU Blue Card issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full shall be entitled to enter and stay for the purpose of carrying out a business activity in one or several second Member States for up to 90 days in any 180-day period on the basis of the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State and a valid travel document. The second Member State shall not require any authorisation for exercising the business activity other than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State. <i>However, where the second Member State applies the Schengen</i>	2. A third-country national who holds a valid EU Blue Card issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full shall be entitled to enter and stay for the purpose of carrying out a business activity in one or several second Member States for up to 90 days in any 180-day period on the basis of the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State and a valid travel document. The second Member State shall not require any authorisation for exercising the business activity other than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 to move the provision in Article 22 (1) to this provision with the following wording:</i> 2. A third-country national who holds a valid EU Blue Card issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full shall be entitled to enter and stay for the purpose of carrying out a business activity in one or several second Member States for up to 90 days in any 180-day period on the basis of the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State and a valid travel document. Where the EU Blue Card holder crosses an internal border where controls have not yet been lifted, the second Member State applying the Schengen Acquis in full may require

		<i>acquis in full, it may require the EU Blue Card holder, when crossing an external border, to provide evidence of the business purpose of his or her stay in that Member State.</i>		the EU Blue Card holder to provide evidence of the business purpose of the stay. The second Member State shall not require any authorisation for exercising the business activity other than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State.
244.	<i>Article 20 Application for an EU Blue Card in a second Member State</i>	Amendment 139 [...] Long-term mobility for EU Blue Card holders [...]	<i>Article 20 Long-term mobility in a second Member State</i>	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> Article 20 Long-term mobility
245.	1. After twelve months of legal residence in the first Member State as an EU Blue Card holder, the third-country national shall be entitled to enter a second Member State for the purpose of highly skilled employment on the basis of the EU Blue Card and a valid travel document under the conditions set out in this Article.	Amendment 140 1. After twelve months of legal residence in the first Member State as an EU Blue Card holder, the third-country national shall be entitled to enter, stay and work in one or several [...] Member States for the purpose of highly skilled employment on the basis of the EU Blue Card and a valid travel document	1. After twelve months of legal residence in the first Member State as an EU Blue Card holder, the third-country national shall be entitled to enter a second Member State for the purpose of highly [...] qualified employment on the basis of the EU Blue Card and a valid travel document under the conditions set out in this Article.	<i>Compromise package: [Agreed with EP (except qualified/skilled)]:</i> 1. After twelve months of legal residence in the first Member State as an EU Blue Card holder, the third-country national shall be entitled to enter, reside and work in a second Member State for the purpose of highly qualified employment on the basis of the EU Blue Card and a valid travel document under the

		under the conditions set out in this Article.	conditions set out in this Article.
245a			<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 to move Article 20(3a) of the EP text (line 254b) and Article 22(1) (line 280) to a new paragraph (1a) with the following wording ('skills' vs 'qualified' still to be decided at political level).:</i> 1a. Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full and the EU Blue Card holder crosses, for the purpose of long-term-mobility, an internal border where controls have not yet been lifted, the second Member State applying the Schengen Acquis in full may require the EU Blue Card holder to provide the valid EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State and a work contract or a binding job offer for highly [qualified] [skilled] employment of at least six months in the second Member State.

246.	2. As soon as possible and no later than one month after entering the territory of the second Member State, the EU Blue Card holder or his employer or both shall submit an application for an EU Blue Card to the competent authority of that Member State and present all the documents proving the fulfilment of the conditions referred to in paragraph 3 for the second Member State.	Amendment 141 As soon as possible and no later than one month after entering the territory of the second Member State, the EU Blue Card holder or his or her employer or both shall [...] notify [...] the competent authority of that second Member State of his or her employment in that Member State and shall present [...] the documents required under paragraph 3 [...].	2. As soon as possible and no later than one month after entering the territory of the second Member State, the EU Blue Card holder or his or her employer or both shall submit an application for an EU Blue Card to the competent authority of that Member State and present all the documents proving the fulfilment of the conditions referred to in paragraph 3 for the second Member State.	<i>Compromise package:</i> 2. As soon as possible and no later than one month after entering the territory of the second Member State, the EU Blue Card holder or his or her employer or [...] either of the two shall submit an application for an EU Blue Card to the competent authority of that Member State and present all the documents proving the fulfilment of the conditions referred to in paragraph 3 for the second Member State.
247.	The EU Blue Card holder shall be allowed to work in the second Member State immediately after submitting the application.	Amendment 142 The EU Blue Card holder shall be allowed to work in the second Member State immediately after submitting the [...] notification .	The second Member State may allow the EU Blue Card holder [...] to start working immediately after submitting the application.	<i>Compromise package:</i> The EU Blue Card holder shall be allowed to work in the second Member State at the latest 30 days after the submission of the complete application.
248.		Amendment 143		

	The application may also be submitted to the competent authorities of the second Member State while the EU Blue Card holder is still residing in the territory of the first Member State.	The [...] notification may also be submitted to the competent authorities of the second Member State while the EU Blue Card holder is still residing in the territory of the first Member State.	The application may also be submitted to the competent authorities of the second Member State while the EU Blue Card holder is still residing in the territory of the first Member State.	<i>Compromise package:</i> keep the COM/Council text
249.	3. For the purposes of the application referred to in paragraph 2, the EU Blue Card holder shall present:	Amendment 144 3. For the purposes of the [...] notification referred to in paragraph 2, the EU Blue Card holder shall present:	3. For the purposes of the application referred to in paragraph 2, the EU Blue Card holder shall [...]:	<i>Compromise package:</i> 3. For the purposes of the application referred to in paragraph 2, the EU Blue Card holder shall present:
250.	(a) the valid EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State;		(a) present the valid EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State;	<i>Council wishes to maintain its text</i>
251.	(b) a valid work contract or, as provided for in national law, a binding job offer for highly skilled employment, of at least six months in the second Member State;		(b) present a valid work contract or, as provided for in national law, a binding job offer for highly [...] qualified employment, of at least six months in the second Member State;	<i>Council wishes to maintain its text</i>
252.	(c) for regulated professions, a document attesting fulfilment of the conditions set out under national law for the exercise by Union citizens of the regulated profession specified in the work contract or binding job offer as provided for in national law;		(c) for regulated professions, present a document attesting fulfilment of the conditions set out under national law for the exercise by Union citizens of the regulated profession specified in the	<i>Compromise package:</i> (c) for regulated professions, present a document attesting fulfilment of the conditions set out under national law for

			work contract or binding job offer as provided for in national law;	the exercise by Union citizens of the regulated profession specified in the work contract or binding job offer as provided for in national law. For the purpose of applying for an EU Blue Card in a second Member State, EU Blue Card holders shall enjoy equal treatment with Union citizens as regards recognition of professional qualifications, in accordance with applicable EU and national law.
252a			(ca) if requested by the Member State concerned, present the documents attesting higher professional qualifications in relation to the work to be carried out as provided for in national law;	<i>Compromise proposal: Delete provision; See may clause in Line 254d</i>
253.	(d) a valid travel document, as determined by national law;		(d) present a valid travel document, as determined by national law;	<i>Council wishes to maintain its text</i>
254.	(e) evidence of meeting the salary threshold set in the second Member State in application of paragraph 2 or, where	Amendment 145 (e) <i>where necessary</i> , evidence of meeting the salary threshold set in the second Member State in	(e) present evidence of meeting the salary threshold set in the second Member State in application of	<i>Compromise package:</i> (e) evidence of meeting the salary threshold set in the second Member State in

	applicable, of paragraphs 4 or 5 of Article 5.	application of <i>Article 5(2)</i> or, where applicable, of <i>Article 5(4)</i> or (5).	paragraph 2 or, where applicable, of paragraphs 4 or 5 of Article 5;	application of paragraph 2 or, where applicable, of paragraphs 4 or 5 of Article 5.
254a			(f) provide evidence of having, or if provided for by national law, applied for a sickness insurance for all the risks normally covered for nationals of the Member States concerned for periods where no such insurance coverage and corresponding entitlement to benefits are provided in connection with, or resulting from, the work contract.	<i>Compromise package: Delete provision; See may clause in Line 254e</i>
254aa				<i>Compromise package:</i> Where the EU Blue Card has been issued in the first Member State on the basis of higher professional skills for occupations not listed in the Annex, the EU Blue Card holder shall present the documents attesting higher professional qualifications in relation to the work to be carried out, as provided for in the national law of the second Member State.

254b		Amendment 146 <i>3a. Where the EU Blue Card was issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full and the holder crosses an external border for the purpose of long-term mobility, the second Member State may require, as evidence for the mobility, a work contract or a binding job offer for highly skilled employment for at least six months in the second Member State.</i>		<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 to move this provision to a new provision in Article 20(1a) (see line 245a).</i>
254c				<i>Compromise package:</i> 3a. For the purposes of the application referred to in paragraph 2, the Member State concerned may require the EU Blue Card holder:
254d				<i>Compromise package:</i> (a) where the EU Blue Card holder worked for less than two years in the first Member State, to present the

				documents attesting higher professional qualifications in relation to the work to be carried out as provided for in national law;
254e				(b) to provide evidence of having, or if provided for by national law, applied for a sickness insurance for all the risks normally covered for nationals of the Member States concerned for periods where no such insurance coverage and corresponding entitlement to benefits are provided in connection with, or resulting from, the work contract.
255.	4. The second Member State shall reject an application for an EU Blue Card in any of the following cases:	Amendment 147 4. <i>Within 30 days of the date of receipt of the notification</i> , the second Member State [...] <i>may object to mobility</i> in any of the following cases:	4. The second Member State shall reject an application for an EU Blue Card in any of the following cases:	<i>Compromise package: Reject amendment 147</i>
256.	(a) the documents required pursuant to paragraph 3 are not presented;		(a) [...] the conditions set out in paragraph 3 are not [...] fulfilled;	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> “(a) paragraph 3 is not complied with; “
257.		Amendment 148		

	(b) the documents were fraudulently acquired, or falsified or tampered with;	(b) the documents were, <i>with the knowledge of the third-country national concerned</i> , fraudulently acquired, or falsified or tampered with;	(b) the documents were fraudulently acquired, or falsified or tampered with;	<i>Compromise package: Reject amendment 148</i>
258.	(c) the employment does not comply with the conditions laid down in the applicable laws, collective agreements or practices as referred to in Article 5(3).		(c) the employment does not comply with the conditions laid down in the applicable laws, collective agreements or practices as referred to in Article 5(3);	
258a		Amendment 149 <i>(ca) where the EU Blue Card holder poses a threat to public policy, public security or public health;</i>	(d) the third-country national poses a threat to public policy, public security or public health.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> (d) the EU Blue Card holder poses a threat to public policy, public security or public health.
258b		Amendment 150 <i>(cb) where the second Member State undertakes a check in accordance with Article 6(3a) after a justified notification as set out in that Article, and only if the second Member State has also introduced such checks for third-country nationals coming</i>		<i>Agreement at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 to delete this line.</i>

		<i>from third countries under this Directive.</i>		
258c		Amendment 151 <i>4a. Any decision to object to mobility, taken under this paragraph, shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and shall be proportionate. In respect of any decision to object to mobility, Article 10(3) and (4) shall apply, mutatis mutandis.</i>		<i>Compromise package:</i> 4a. In respect of any application procedure for the purpose of long-term mobility, the procedural safeguards set out in Article 10 (3) and (4) shall apply accordingly. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, a decision to reject an application for long term mobility shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and respect the principle of proportionality.
259.	5. The second Member State shall reject an application for an EU Blue Card where the third-country national poses a threat to public policy, public security or public health.	Amendment 152 5. The second Member State shall [...] <i>inform the first Member State in writing at the same time as informing the EU Blue Card holder, his or her employer, or both, of any objection to mobility and may oblige the EU Blue Card holder and his or her</i>	<i>deleted (moved under paragraph 4 point d of this Article)</i>	<i>Compromise package:</i> <i>Reject amendment 152</i>

		<i>family members, in accordance with procedures provided for in national law, to leave its territory.</i>		
260.	6. The second Member State may reject an application for an EU Blue Card on the basis of a check made in accordance with Article 6(2) after a justified notification as set out in that Article, and only if the second Member State has also introduced such checks for third-country nationals coming from third countries under this Directive.	Amendment 153 6. <i>Where a [...] second Member State [...] objects to mobility, that objection shall not affect the renewal of the EU Blue Card [...] or the re-entry of the EU Blue Card holder and his or her family members to the first Member State. Upon request of the second Member State, the first Member State shall allow such re-entry without formalities and without delay. This shall also apply if the [...] EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State has [...] expired or has been withdrawn during the notification period. The EU Blue Card holder or his or her employer in the second Member State may be held liable for the costs relating to the re-entry of</i>	6. The second Member State may reject an application for an EU Blue Card on the basis of a check made in accordance with Article 6(2) [...] and only if the second Member State has also introduced such checks for third-country nationals coming from third countries under this Directive.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17*:</i> 6. The second Member State may reject an application for an EU Blue Card on the basis of a check carried out in accordance with Article 6(3)(aee) [...] only if that Member State carries out such checks when it is the first Member State.

		<i>the EU Blue Card holder and his or her family members.</i>		
261.	7. The second Member State may reject an application for an EU Blue Card where the third-country national repetitively makes use of the possibility to enter and work in second Member States pursuant to this Article in an abusive manner. The second Member State shall notify the first Member State of the rejection for the purpose of point (f) of Article 7(2).	Amendment 154 7. <i>Where the EU Blue Card holder has exercised mobility pursuant to this Article and wishes to renew the [...] EU Blue Card [...] and to continue working in the second Member State, the EU Blue Card holder or his or her employer shall apply for renewal in that second Member [...] State. If he or she applies for renewal in the first Member State [...], he or she will be required to work for 12 months in that first Member State [...] before exercising his or her right to long-term mobility again, in accordance with paragraph 1.</i>	7. The second Member State may reject an application for an EU Blue Card where the third-country national [...] makes use of the possibility to enter and work in second Member States pursuant to this Article in an abusive manner. The second Member State shall notify the first Member State of the rejection for the purpose of point (f) of Article 7(2).	<i>Compromise package:</i> Delete
262.	8. By way of derogation from Article 10(1), the second Member State shall adopt a decision on an application for an EU Blue Card and notify the applicant and the first Member State in writing at the latest within	Amendment 155 8. By way of derogation from Article 10(1), the second Member State shall adopt a decision on [...] <i>the notification and inform</i>	8. [...] The second Member State shall adopt a decision on an application for an EU Blue Card and notify the applicant and the first	<i>Compromise package:</i> 8. The second Member State shall adopt a decision on an application for an EU Blue Card to either:

	30 days of the date of submission of the application of its decision to either:	<i>the</i> EU Blue Card [...] <i>holder</i> and [...] the first Member State in writing at the latest within 30 days of the date of submission of the [...] <i>notification</i> of its decision to either:	Member State in writing at the latest within [...] 90 days of the date of submission of the complete application of its decision to either:	
263.	(a) where the conditions laid down in this Article are fulfilled, issue an EU Blue Card and allow the third-country national to reside on its territory for the purpose of highly skilled employment; or	Amendment 156 (a) where the conditions laid down in this Article are fulfilled, [...] <i>not to object to mobility</i> ; or	(a) where the conditions laid down in this Article are fulfilled, issue an EU Blue Card and allow the third-country national to reside on its territory for the purpose of highly [...] qualified employment; or	<i>Compromise package:</i> Keep Council mandate
264.	(b) where the conditions laid down in this Article are not fulfilled, refuse to issue an EU Blue Card and oblige the applicant and his family members, in accordance with the procedures provided for in national law, to leave its territory.	Amendment 157 (b) where the conditions laid down in this Article are not fulfilled, [...] <i>to object to the mobility</i> and oblige the applicant and his family members, in accordance with the procedures provided for in national law, to leave its territory.	(b) where the conditions laid down in this Article are not fulfilled, refuse to issue an EU Blue Card [...].	<i>Compromise package:</i> (b) where the applicant has failed to comply with the conditions for mobility laid down in this Article, reject the application and oblige the applicant and his family members, in accordance with the procedures provided for in national law, to leave its territory. By way of derogation from Article 10(1), the second Member State shall notify the

				applicant and the first Member State in writing of its decision as soon as possible, but at the latest within [...] 30 days of the date of submission of the complete application. Under exceptional and duly justified circumstances linked to the complexity of the application, Member States may extend the maximum period by 30 days. They shall inform the applicant of the extension before that maximum period has expired. In its notification to the first Member State, the second Member State shall specify the grounds referred to in (b) and (d) of paragraph 4 reasons for rejecting the application when the decision was due to the grounds referred to in (b) and (d) of paragraph 4.
265.	9. Where the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State expires during the procedure, the second Member State may issue, if so required by national law, national temporary residence permits, or	Amendment 158 9. Where the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State expires during the notification procedure, the second Member State may	9. Where the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State expires during the procedure, the second Member State may issue, if	<i>Compromise package:</i> Keep Council mandate

	equivalent authorisations, allowing the applicant to continue to stay legally on its territory until a decision on the application has been taken by the competent authorities.	issue, if so required by national law, national temporary residence permits, or equivalent authorisations, allowing the applicant to continue to stay legally on its territory until a decision on the [...] renewal of the EU Blue Card has been taken by the competent authorities.	so required by national law, national temporary residence permits, or equivalent authorisations, allowing the applicant to continue to stay legally on its territory until a decision on the application has been taken by the competent authorities.	
266.	10. From the second time that an EU Blue Card holder and, where applicable, his family members, make use of the possibility to move to another Member State pursuant to this Article, "first Member State" shall be understood as meaning the Member State from where the person concerned moves and "second Member State" as meaning the Member State to which he is applying to reside. By way of derogation from Article 20(1), an EU Blue Card holder may move to another Member State a second time after six months of legal residence in the first Member State as an EU Blue Card holder.		10. From the second time that an EU Blue Card holder and, where applicable, his family members, make use of the possibility to move to another Member State [...] under the terms of this Chapter , "first Member State" shall be understood as meaning the Member State from where the person concerned moves and "second Member State" as meaning the Member State to which he or she is applying to reside. By way of derogation from Article 20(1), an EU Blue Card holder may move to another Member State a second time after six months of legal residence in the first Member State as an EU Blue Card holder.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> <i>Reference will be made to Articles 20 and 21 instead of a reference to "the terms of this Chapter".</i>

267.	<i>Article 21 Residence in the second Member State for family members</i>		<i>Article 21 Residence in the second Member State for family members</i>	
268.	1. Where the EU Blue Card holder moves to a second Member State in accordance with Article 20 and where the family was already constituted in the first Member State, the members of his or her family shall be authorised to accompany him or her and to enter and stay in the second Member State based on the valid residence permits obtained as family members of an EU Blue Card holder in the first Member State.	Amendment 159 1. Where the EU Blue Card holder moves to a second Member State in accordance with Article 20 and where the family [...] has joined the EU Blue Card holder or where the family has been constituted in the first Member State, the members of [...] the EU Blue Card holder's family shall be [...] entitled to accompany him or her and to enter and stay in the second Member State based on valid residence permits obtained as family members of [...] the EU Blue Card holder in the first Member State. Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full and the family members of an EU Blue Card holder join him or her when crossing an	1. Where the EU Blue Card holder moves to a second Member State in accordance with Article 20 and where the family was already constituted in the first Member State, the members of his or her family shall be [...] entitled to accompany or join him or her and to enter and stay in the second Member State based on the valid residence permits obtained as family members of an EU Blue Card holder in the first Member State and a valid travel document under the conditions set out in Article 16 and paragraphs 2 to 8 of this Article.	<i>Compromise package:</i> 1. Where the EU Blue Card holder moves to a second Member State in accordance with Article 20 and where the family was already constituted in the first Member State, the members of his or her family shall be entitled to accompany or join the EU Blue Card holder. Directive 2003/86/EC and Article 16 shall apply, subject to the derogations provided for in paragraphs 1a to 8. Where the family was not already constituted in the first Member State, Article 16 shall apply. <i>Compromise package:</i> 1a. By way of derogation from 13(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC, the members of the EU Blue Card holder's family shall be [...] entitled

		<i>external border for the purpose of moving to a second Member State, the second Member State shall be entitled to require that family members present their residence permits in the first Member State as family members of the EU Blue Card holder.</i>		[...] to enter and stay in the second Member State based on the valid residence permits obtained as family members of an EU Blue Card holder in the first Member State [...]. Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full and the family members of an EU Blue Card holder join him or her, when crossing an internal border where controls have not yet been lifted for the purpose of moving to a second Member State, the second Member State applying the Schengen Acquis in full may require that family members present their residence permits in the first Member State as family members of the EU Blue Card holder.
269.	2. No later than one month after entering the territory of the second Member State, the family members concerned or the EU Blue Card holder, in accordance with national law, shall submit an application for a residence permit as a family member to		2. No later than one month after entering the territory of the second Member State, the family members concerned or the EU Blue Card holder, in accordance with national law,	<i>Agreement at trilogue on 11 Feb 21:</i> 2. By way of derogation from Article 5(3) of Directive 2003/86/EC, no

	the competent authorities of that Member State.		shall submit an application for a residence permit as a family member to the competent authorities of that Member State.	later than one month after entering the territory of the second Member State, the family members concerned or the EU Blue Card holder, in accordance with national law, shall submit an application for a residence permit as a family member to the competent authorities of that Member State.
270.	Where the residence permit of the family member issued by the first Member State expires during the procedure or no longer entitles the holder to reside legally on the territory of the second Member State, the second Member State shall allow the family member to stay in their territory, if necessary by issuing national temporary residence permits or equivalent authorisations, until a decision on the application has been taken by the competent authorities of the second Member State.		Where the residence permit of the family member issued by the first Member State expires during the procedure or no longer entitles the holder to reside legally on the territory of the second Member State, the second Member State shall allow the family member to stay in their territory, if necessary by issuing national temporary residence permits or equivalent authorisations, until a decision on the application has been taken by the competent authorities of the second Member State.	
271.	3. The second Member State may require the family members concerned to present	Amendment 160 3. The second Member State may require the	3. The second Member State may, in particular , require	<i>Compromise package:</i>

	with their application for a residence permit:	family members concerned to [...] <i>transmit</i> , with their application [...], <i>their</i> residence permit <i>in the first Member State together with a valid travel document, or certified copies thereof.</i>	the family members concerned to present with their application for a residence permit:	3. By way of derogation from Articles 5(2) and 7(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC, the second Member State may [...] require the family members concerned to present with their application for a residence permit: (a) their residence permit in the first Member State and a valid travel document, or certified copies thereof; (b) evidence that they have resided as members of the family of the EU Blue Card holder in the first Member State; (c) evidence referred to in points (b) of Article 7(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC.
272.	(a) their residence permit in the first Member State and a valid travel document, or certified copies thereof;	Amendment 161 <i>Deleted</i>	(a) their residence permit in the first Member State and a valid travel document, or certified copies thereof;	<i>Compromise package:</i> deleted
273.	(b) evidence that they have resided as members of the family of the EU Blue Card holder in the first Member State.	Amendment 162 <i>Deleted</i>	(b) evidence that they have resided as members of the family of the EU Blue Card	<i>Compromise package:</i> Deleted

			holder in the first Member State.	
274.	4. By way of derogation from Article 16(4), where the family members join the EU Blue Card holder after he or she has moved to the second Member State, residence permits shall be granted at the latest within 30 days from the date on which the application was submitted, where the conditions for family reunification are fulfilled.		<i>deleted</i>	<i>Compromise package:</i> 4. Where the conditions set out in this Article are fulfilled and the applications were submitted simultaneously, the second Member State shall issue the residence permits for family members at the same time as the EU Blue Card. By way of derogation from Article 16(4)], where the conditions set out in this Article are fulfilled and the family members join the EU Blue Card holder after the EU Blue Card has been granted to him or her, residence permits for family members shall be granted at the latest within 30 days from the date on which the application was submitted. In duly justified circumstances linked to the complexity of the application, Member States may extend period by a maximum of 30 days.

275.	5. In addition to the derogations listed in Article 16, the second Member State shall not require the evidence referred to in points (a) and (b) of Article 7(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC.		5. In addition to the derogations listed in Article 16, the second Member State shall not require the evidence referred to in [...] point (a) of Article 7(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC.	<i>Compromise package:</i> Deleted
276.	6. Where the family was not already constituted in the first Member State, Article 16 shall apply.		6. Where the family was not already constituted in the first Member State, Article 16 shall apply.	<i>Compromise suggestion to merge this provision with paragraph 1 of this Article. Consequently, this provision may be deleted.</i>
277.	7. This Article shall apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of international protection only when they move to reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection.	Amendment 163 7. This Article shall apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of international protection both when they move to reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection and if they stay in that Member State.	7. This Article shall apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of international protection only when they move to reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection.	<i>Compromise package:</i> 7. This Article shall apply to family members of those EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of international protection only when [...] those EU Blue Card holders move to reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection.
278.	8. This Article shall not apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement under Union law in the second Member State.		8. This Article shall not apply to family members of those EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement under	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21:</i>

			Union law in the second Member State.	8. This Article shall not apply to family members of those EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement under Union law in <u>the second Member State.</u>
279.	<i>Article 22 Safeguards and sanctions</i>		<i>Article 22 Safeguards and sanctions in cases of mobility</i>	
280.	1. Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full and the EU Blue Card holder crosses an external border for the purpose of mobility as referred to in Articles 19 and 20, the second Member State shall be entitled to require as evidence of the mobility of the EU Blue Card holder:	Amendment 164 <i>deleted</i>	1. Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full and the EU Blue Card holder crosses an external border for the purpose of mobility as referred to in Articles 19 and 20, the second Member State shall be entitled to require as evidence of the mobility of the EU Blue Card holder:	<i>Provisional agreement found to move this provision under Articles 19 and 20.</i>
281.	(a) the valid EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State;	<i>deleted</i>	(a) the valid EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State;	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 to move this provision under Articles 19 and 20.</i>
282.	(b) for the purpose of Article 19, evidence of the business purpose of the stay;	<i>deleted</i>	(b) for the purpose of Article 19, evidence of the business purpose of the stay;	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 to move this provision under Articles 19 and 20.</i>

283.	(c) for the purpose of Article 20, a work contract or a binding job offer for highly skilled employment of at least six months in the second Member State.	<i>deleted</i>	(c) for the purpose of Article 20, a work contract or a binding job offer for highly [...] qualified employment of at least six months in the second Member State.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 11 Feb 21 to move this provision under Articles 19 and 20.</i>
284.		Amendment 165 <i>1a. Member States shall provide for measures to prevent possible abuses and to sanction infringements of this Directive. Such measures shall include monitoring, assessment and, where appropriate, inspection in accordance with Union law, in particular Directive 2009/52/EC, and national law or administrative practice.</i>		<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17: this amendment will be withdrawn, as covered by compromise proposal on sanctions in new article 12a</i>
284a				<i>Compromise package</i> 1a. The first Member State shall not withdraw an EU Blue Card on the basis that an EU Blue Card holder crosses an external border for the purpose of mobility, or during the process for that purpose in the second Member State, until the first Member State

				has ascertained that the second Member State has granted long-term mobility to that EU Blue Card holder. However, this shall not prevent the first Member State from withdrawing the Blue Card if the conditions of Article 7 are fulfilled.
285.	2. Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full and the family members of an EU Blue Card holder join him or her when crossing an external border for the purpose of moving to a second Member State as referred to in Article 21(1), the second Member State shall be entitled, in addition to the evidence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, to require that family members present their residence permits in the first Member State as family members of the EU Blue Card holder.	Amendment 166 <i>deleted</i>	2. Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full and the family members of an EU Blue Card holder join him or her when crossing an external border for the purpose of moving to a second Member State as referred to in Article 21(1), the second Member State shall be entitled, in addition to the evidence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, to require that family members present their residence permits in the first Member State as family members of the EU Blue Card holder.	<i>Provisional agreement found to move this provision under Article 21 (1).</i>
286.		Amendment 167 <i>deleted</i>		<i>Compromise package: Keep Council mandate</i>

	3. Where the second Member State rejects the application for an EU Blue Card in accordance with point (b) of Article 20(8), the first Member State shall, upon the request of the second Member State, allow re-entry of the EU Blue Card holder and, where applicable, his family members, without formalities and without delay. This shall also apply if the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State has expired or has been withdrawn during the examination of the application. Article 14 shall apply after re-entry into the first Member State.		3. Where the second Member State rejects the application for an EU Blue Card in accordance with point (b) of Article 20(8), the first Member State shall, upon the request of the second Member State, allow re-entry of the EU Blue Card holder and, where applicable, his family members, without formalities and without delay. This shall also apply if the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State has expired or has been withdrawn during the examination of the application. [...]	[also see proposal in line 284a]
286a	4. The EU Blue Card holder or his employer in the second Member State may be held responsible for the costs related to the re-entry of the EU Blue Card holder and his family members referred to in paragraph 4.	Amendment 168 <i>deleted</i>	4. The EU Blue Card holder or his or her employer in the second Member State may be held responsible for the costs related to the re-entry of the EU Blue Card holder and his or her family members referred to in paragraph [...] 3.	<i>Compromise package:</i> Keep Council text
287.	5. Member States may hold the employer of the EU Blue Card holder responsible for	Amendment 169 (EMPL) Member States [...] shall hold the employer of the	5. Member States may [...] provide for the imposition	<i>Compromise package:</i>

	failure to comply with the conditions of mobility laid down in this Chapter or for repetitively making use of the mobility provisions of this Chapter in an abusive manner.	EU Blue Card holder responsible for deliberate failure to comply with the relevant conditions of mobility laid down in this Chapter or for repetitively making use of the mobility provisions of this Chapter in an abusive manner.	of sanctions in accordance with Article 7a on the employer of the EU Blue Card holder who is responsible for the failure to comply with the conditions of mobility laid down in this Chapter or for [...] making use of the mobility provisions of this Chapter in an abusive manner.	5. Member States may [...] provide for the imposition of sanctions in accordance with Article 7a on the employer of the EU Blue Card holder who is responsible for the failure to comply with the conditions of mobility laid down in this Chapter.
288.	The Member State concerned shall provide for sanctions where the employer is held responsible. Those sanctions shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive.	Amendment 170 (EMPL) The Member State concerned shall provide for sanctions where the employer is [...] proven to be responsible, particularly where the employer has failed to fulfil its legal obligations concerning employment or working conditions . Those sanctions shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive.	<i>deleted</i>	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> <i>To be deleted, as covered by compromise on sanctions in article 7a (new article 12a)</i>
289.		Amendment 171 5a. Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full and the family members of an EU		<i>Compromise package: Amendment rejected</i>

		<i>Blue Card holder join him or her when crossing an external border for the purpose of moving to a second Member State as referred to in Article 21(1), the second Member State shall be entitled, in addition to the evidence referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, to require that family members present their residence permits in the first Member State as family members of the EU Blue Card holder.</i>		
290.	6. Where a Member State withdraws or does not renew an EU Blue Card which contains the remark referred to in Article 8(4) and decides to expel the third-country national, it shall request the Member State mentioned in that remark to confirm whether the person concerned is still a beneficiary of international protection in that Member State. The Member State mentioned in the remark shall reply within one month after receiving the request for information.		6. Where a Member State withdraws or does not renew an EU Blue Card which contains the remark referred to in paragraphs 4 or 5 of Article 8(4) and decides to expel the third-country national, it shall request the Member State mentioned in that remark to confirm whether the person concerned is still a beneficiary of international protection in that Member State. The Member State mentioned in the remark shall reply within	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> 6. Where a Member State withdraws or does not renew an EU Blue Card which contains the remark referred to Article 8(5) and decides to expel the third-country national, it shall request the Member State mentioned in that remark to confirm whether the person concerned is still a beneficiary of international protection in that Member State. The Member State mentioned in the remark

			one month after receiving the request for information.	shall reply within one month after receiving the request for information.
291.	Where the third-country national is still a beneficiary of international protection in the Member State mentioned in the remark, that person shall be expelled to that Member State, which shall, without prejudice to the applicable Union or national law and to the principle of family unity, immediately allow the re-entry, without formalities, of that beneficiary and his or her family members.		Where the third-country national is still a beneficiary of international protection in the Member State mentioned in the remark, that person shall be expelled to that Member State, which shall, without prejudice to the applicable Union or national law and to the principle of family unity, immediately allow the re-entry, without formalities, of that beneficiary and his or her family members.	
292.	By way of derogation from the second subparagraph, the Member State which adopted the expulsion decision shall retain the right to remove, in accordance with its international obligations, the third-country national to a country other than the Member State which granted international protection, where that person fulfils the conditions specified in Article 21(2) of Directive 2011/95/EU.	Amendment 172 <i>deleted</i>	By way of derogation from the second subparagraph, the Member State which adopted the expulsion decision shall retain the right to remove, in accordance with its international obligations, the third-country national to a country other than the Member State which granted international protection, where that person fulfils the conditions specified in	<i>Compromise package:</i> <i>Keep Council mandate</i>

			Article 21(2) of Directive 2011/95/EU.	
292a		Amendment 173 <i>6a. Where a Member State withdraws or does not renew an EU Blue Card which contains the remark referred to in Article 8(4a) and decides to expel the third-country national, it shall request the Member State mentioned in that remark to confirm whether the person concerned has withdrawn his or her application for international protection. The Member State mentioned in that remark shall reply within one month of receipt of the request for information.</i>		<i>Compromise package: Reject amendment</i>
292b		<i>Where the third-country national has not withdrawn his or her application for international protection in the Member State mentioned in that remark, that person shall be expelled to that Member State, which shall, without prejudice to the applicable</i>		<i>Compromise package: Reject amendment</i>

		<i>Union or national law and to the principle of family unity, immediately allow re-entry, without formalities, of that applicant for international protection.</i>		
293.	7. Where the EU Blue Card holder or his or her family members cross the external border of a Member State applying the Schengen acquis in full, that Member State shall consult the Schengen information system. That Member State shall refuse entry for persons for whom an alert for the purposes of refusing entry and stay has been issued in the Schengen information system.	Amendment 174 7. Where the EU Blue Card holder or his or her family members cross the external border of a Member State applying the Schengen acquis in full, that Member State shall, in accordance with the Schengen Borders Code , consult the Schengen information system. That Member State shall refuse entry for persons for whom an alert for the purposes of refusing entry and stay has been issued in the Schengen information system.	7. Where the EU Blue Card holder or his or her family members cross the external border of a Member State applying the Schengen acquis in full, that Member State shall consult the Schengen information system. That Member State shall refuse entry for persons for whom an alert for the purposes of refusing entry and stay has been issued in the Schengen information system.	<i>Provisional agreement at technical meeting of 4 March 2021:</i> 7. Where the EU Blue Card holder or his or her family members cross the external border of a Member State applying the Schengen acquis in full, that Member State shall, in accordance with the Schengen Borders Code , consult the Schengen information system. That Member State shall refuse entry for persons for whom an alert for the purposes of refusing entry and stay has been issued in the Schengen information system.
294.	Chapter VI FINAL PROVISIONS		Chapter VI FINAL PROVISIONS	
295.	<i>Article 23 Access to information and monitoring</i>		<i>Article 23 Access to information and monitoring</i>	

296.	1. Member States shall make easily accessible to applicants the information on all the documentary evidence needed for an application and information on entry and residence conditions, including the rights, obligations and procedural safeguards, of the third-country nationals falling under the scope of this Directive and of their family members. This information shall include information on the salary thresholds set in the Member State concerned in accordance with Article 5(2), (4) and (5), and on the applicable fees.	Amendment 175 Member States shall make easily accessible to applicants the information on all the documentary evidence needed for an application and information on entry and residence conditions, including the rights, obligations and procedural safeguards, of the third-country nationals falling under the scope of this Directive and of their family members. [...]	1. Member States shall make easily accessible to applicants the information on all the documentary evidence needed for an application and information on entry and residence conditions, including the rights, obligations and procedural safeguards, of the third-country nationals falling under the scope of this Directive and of their family members. This information shall include information on the salary thresholds set in the Member State concerned in accordance with Article 5(2), (4) and (5), and on the applicable fees.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> 1. Member States shall make easily accessible to applicants the information on all the documentary evidence needed for an application and information on entry and residence conditions, including the rights, obligations and procedural safeguards, of the third-country nationals falling under the scope of this Directive and of their family members. This information shall include information on the salary thresholds set in the Member State concerned in accordance with Article 5(2), (4) and (5), and on the applicable fees.
296a		Amendment 176 <i>This shall include, where applicable, information on the salary thresholds and where there is a fee for the application in the Member State concerned information on the time-limits, procedures and competent authorities for</i>		<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> <i>EP Amendment withdrawn</i>

		<i>appealing against decisions taken by the Member States' competent authorities under this Directive, information on any occupations or sectors of employment suffering high levels of unemployment for the purposes of point (cc) of Article 6(3), and information on those sectors of employment which face shortages of highly skilled workers under Article 6(3a).</i>		
297.	This information shall also include information:		This information shall also include information:	
298.	(a) on business activities allowed in the territory of the Member State concerned to an EU Blue Card holder from another Member State as referred to in Article 19.		(a) on business activities allowed in the territory of the Member State concerned to an EU Blue Card holder from another Member State as referred to in Article 19;	
299.	(b) on the procedures applicable to obtaining an EU Blue Card as well as residence permits for family members, in a second Member State, as referred to in Article 20 and 21.		(b) on the procedures applicable to obtaining an EU Blue Card as well as residence permits for family members, in a second Member State, as referred to in Article 20 and 21.	
299a		Amendment 177		<i>Compromise package Reject amendment 177</i>

		<i>(ba) on the time-limits, procedures and competent authorities for appealing against decisions taken by the Member States' competent authorities under this Directive.</i>		
300.	In the case where Member States decide to make use of the possibility provided for by Article 6(2), the introduction of a check of the labour market situation in a given occupation or sector, in a given region, shall be communicated in the same way.	Amendment 178 <i>deleted</i>	In the case where Member States decide to introduce legislative or regulatory measures in accordance with Article 5a or make use of the possibility provided for by Article 6(2), [...] this information shall be communicated in the same way specifying where appropriate the sectors, occupations and regions concerned.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> In the case where Member States decide to introduce legislative or regulatory measures in accordance with Article 5a or make use of the possibility provided for by Article [6(3)(a)(ee)] , this information shall be communicated in the same way. The information on check of the labour market situation pursuant to Article 6(3)(a)(ee) shall specify, where appropriate, the sectors, occupations and regions concerned.
300a				<i>Compromise package:</i>

				1a. Where Member States issue national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment, they shall ensure the same access to information on the EU Blue Card as on the national residence permits.
301.	2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission each year and upon each modification, the factor they have decided to set for determining the annual salary thresholds, and the resulting nominal amounts, in accordance with Article 5(2), (4) and (5).	Amendment 179 (shared competence) Where Member States establish a salary threshold, they shall communicate to the Commission each year and upon each modification, the factor they have decided to set for determining the annual salary thresholds, and the resulting nominal amounts, in accordance with Article 5(2), (4) and (5).	2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission each year [...] the factor they have decided to set for determining the annual salary thresholds, and the resulting nominal amounts, in accordance with [...] paragraph 2 or, where applicable, paragraphs 2a, 4 or 5 of Article 5.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> 2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission [...] upon each modification, but at least once per year: a) [...] the factor they have decided to set for determining the annual salary thresholds, and the resulting nominal amounts, in accordance with paragraph 2 or, where applicable, paragraphs 2a, 4 or 5 of Article 5; b) [...] the list of the professions for which a derogation in accordance with Article 5(4)

				applies and, where applicable, the justification for a derogation in accordance with Article 5(2a); c) [...] the list of allowed business activities, as meant in Article 2(1), for the application of Article 19; d) information on legislative or regulatory measures in accordance with Article 5a, where applicable; e) information on a check of the labour market situation provided for by [Article 6(3)(aee)], where applicable.
302.	Member States shall communicate each year to the Commission the list of the professions for which a derogation in accordance with Article 5(4) applies.	(shared competence)	Member States shall communicate each year to the Commission the list of the professions for which a derogation in accordance with Article 5(4) applies and, where applicable, the justification for a derogation in accordance with Article 5(2a).	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> <i>this provision will be deleted.</i>
303.		Amendment 180 (shared competence)		<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i>

	Where Member States refuse applications for an EU Blue Card based on ethical recruitment considerations in accordance with Article 6(4), they shall communicate to the Commission and to the other Member States a duly justified decision indicating the countries and sectors concerned.	Where Member States refuse applications for an EU Blue Card based on ethical recruitment considerations in accordance with Article [...] 6(3) , they shall communicate to the Commission and to the other Member States a duly justified decision indicating the countries and sectors concerned.	Where Member States refuse applications for an EU Blue Card based on ethical recruitment considerations in accordance with Article 6(4), they shall communicate to the Commission and to the other Member States a duly justified decision indicating the countries and sectors concerned.	Where Member States refuse applications for an EU Blue Card based on ethical recruitment considerations in accordance with Article 6(3)(cb), they shall communicate and justify to the Commission and to the other Member States each year [...] the countries and [...] professions concerned. Member States shall inform the Commission of agreements with third countries concluded in accordance with Article 6(3)(cb)
304.	Member States shall communicate to the Commission each year the list of allowed business activities, as meant in Article 2(1), for the application of Article 19.		Member States shall communicate to the Commission each year the list of allowed business activities, as meant in Article 2(1), for the application of Article 19.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> <i>The information to be communicated to the Commission will be listed under one single provision under paragraph 2. Consequently, this provision is to be deleted.</i>
304a			2a. Where Member States decide to introduce legislative or regulatory measures in accordance with Article 5a, they shall	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17:</i> <i>The information to be communicated to the</i>

			communicate the measures to the Commission each year.	<i>Commission will listed under one single provision under paragraph 2. Consequently, this provision is to be deleted.</i>
304b			Where Member States have made use of the possibility under Article 6(2), they shall communicate it each year to the Commission.	<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 13.12.17: The information to be communicated to the Commission will be listed under one single provision under paragraph 2. Consequently, this provision is to be deleted.</i>
305.	3. Member States shall monitor and communicate each year to the Commission the impact of this Directive on the national labour markets.	(shared competence)	<i>deleted</i>	Compromise package: Council mandate
305a		Amendment 181 3a. The Commission shall submit the information it receives pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 to the European Parliament on an annual basis.		<i>Compromise package Reject amendment 181</i>
306.	<i>Article 24 Statistics</i>		<i>Article 24 Statistics</i>	
307.	1. Annually, and for the first time by ... ³³ at the latest, Member States shall, in	Amendment 182 Annually, and for the first time by ... ³³ at the latest,	1. Annually, and for the first time by ... ³³ at the latest,	<i>Compromise package:</i>

³³ Four years after the date of entry into force of this Directive.

	accordance with Regulation (EC) No 862/2007³⁴, communicate to the Commission statistics on the numbers of third-country nationals who have been granted an EU Blue Card and on those whose application have been rejected, specifying those rejected in application of Article 6(2), as well as on the numbers of third-country nationals whose EU Blue Card has been renewed or withdrawn, during the previous calendar year. Those statistics shall be disaggregated by the citizenship, occupation, length of validity of the permits, sex and age of the applicants, and the economic sector. Those statistics for third-country nationals who have been granted an EU Blue Card shall be further disaggregated into beneficiaries of international protection, beneficiaries of the right to free movement and those who have acquired EU long-term resident status in accordance with Article 17.	Member States shall, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 862/2007³⁴, communicate to the Commission statistics on the numbers of third-country nationals who have been granted an EU Blue Card and on those whose application have been rejected, specifying those rejected in application of Article 6(2), as well as on the numbers of third-country nationals whose EU Blue Card has been renewed or withdrawn, during the previous calendar year. Those statistics shall be disaggregated by the citizenship, occupation, length of validity of the permits, sex and age of the applicants, <i>the area of activity, the size of the employer's undertaking</i> and the economic sector. Those statistics for third-country nationals who have been granted an EU Blue Card shall be further	Member States shall, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 862/2007³⁴, communicate to the Commission statistics on the numbers of third-country nationals who have been granted an EU Blue Card and, insofar as possible, on those whose applications have been rejected, specifying those rejected in application of Article 5a or 6(2), on applications considered inadmissible on grounds of Article 5a, as well as on the numbers of third-country nationals whose EU Blue Card has been renewed or withdrawn, during the previous calendar year. Those statistics shall be disaggregated by the citizenship and, insofar as possible, by occupation, length of validity of the permits, sex and age of the applicants, and the economic sector. Those statistics for third-country nationals who have been granted an EU Blue Card shall be further	1. Annually, and for the first time by ...³³ at the latest, Member States shall, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 862/2007³⁴, communicate to the Commission statistics on the numbers of third-country nationals who have been granted an EU Blue Card and on those whose applications have been rejected, specifying those rejected in application of Article 5a or 6(3)(aee), on applications considered inadmissible on grounds of Article 5a, as well as on the numbers of third-country nationals whose EU Blue Card has been renewed or withdrawn, during the previous calendar year. Those statistics shall be disaggregated by the citizenship, length-of validity of the permits, sex and age of the applicants and, [...] where available, by length of validity of the permits, by occupation, length of validity of the permits, sex and age of the applicants, the size of the
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Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers (OJ L 199, 31.7.2007, p. 23).

		disaggregated into beneficiaries of international protection, beneficiaries of the right to free movement, <i>applicants for international protection, former holders of a residence permit under Directive (EU) 2016/801 and Directive 2014/36/EU</i> , and those who have acquired EU long-term resident status in accordance with Article 17.	disaggregated into beneficiaries of international protection, beneficiaries of the right to free movement and those who have acquired EU long-term resident status in accordance with Article 17.	employer's undertaking and economic sector. Those statistics for third-country nationals who have been granted an EU Blue Card shall be further disaggregated into beneficiaries of international protection, beneficiaries of the right to free movement and those who have acquired EU long-term resident status in accordance with Article 17.
308.	Statistics on admitted family members shall be communicated in the same manner, except as regards information on their occupation and the economic sector.		Statistics on admitted family members shall be communicated in the same manner, except as regards information on their occupation and the economic sector.	
309.	For EU Blue Card holders, and members of their families, who have been granted residence permits in a second Member State in accordance with Articles 20 and 21, the information provided shall, in addition, specify the Member State of previous residence.		For EU Blue Card holders, and members of their families, who have been granted residence permits in a second Member State in accordance with Articles 20 and 21, the information provided shall, in addition, specify the Member State of previous residence.	
310.		Amendment 183		<i>Compromise package:</i> Retain Council mandate

	2. For the purpose of the implementation of paragraphs Article 5(2), (4) and (5), reference shall be made to data sent to Eurostat in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 ³⁵ .	2. For the purpose of the implementation of Article [...] 5, reference shall be made to data sent to Eurostat in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 ³⁵ .	2. For the purpose of the implementation of paragraphs Article 5(2), (4) and (5), reference shall be made to data [...] provided by Member States to Eurostat in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 ³⁵ and, where appropriate, national data.	
310a				<i>Compromise package:</i> Article 24a - List of occupations in the Annex 1. The occupations for which knowledge, skills and competences attested by professional experience of a level comparable to higher education qualifications and of a specified duration, which is relevant in the profession or sector specified in the work contract or binding job offer, fall within the scope of higher professional qualifications, shall be listed in the Annex to this Directive.

³⁵ Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union (OJ L 174, 26.6.2013, p. 1).

				2. Every three years, and for the first time no later than [three years after the entry into force of the Directive], the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on its assessment of the list of occupations in the Annex, in view of the changing needs of the labour market. This report shall be drawn up after consulting national authorities and on the basis of a public consultation which shall include social partners. On the basis of the report, if appropriate, the Commission may submit legislative proposals for the amendment of the Annex.
311.	<i>Article 25 Reporting</i>	(shared competence)	<i>Article 25 Reporting</i>	
312.	Every three years, and for the first time by [five years after the date of entry into force of this Directive], the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Directive in the Member States, in particular the assessment of the impact of Articles 5, 12, 19 and 20, and the impact of this Directive	Amendment 184 Every three years, and for the first time by [five years after the date of entry into force of this Directive], the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this	Every three years, and for the first time by [five years after the date of entry into force of this Directive], the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Directive	<i>Compromise package:</i> Every three years, and for the first time by [five years after the date of entry into force of this Directive], the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application

	on the national labour market situations. The Commission shall propose any amendments that are necessary.	Directive in the Member States, in particular the assessment of the impact of Articles 3, 5, 10 , 12, 15 , 19 and 20, and the impact of this Directive on the national labour market situations. The Commission shall propose any amendments that are necessary. <i>As part of its assessment the Commission shall evaluate the suitability of similar schemes for labour migration to other employment sectors, in particular low and medium-wage sectors.</i>	in the Member States, in particular the assessment of the impact of Articles 5, 12 [...] and Chapter V , and the impact of this Directive on the national labour market situations. The Commission shall propose any amendments that are necessary.	of this Directive in the Member States. This report shall, in particular, assess the impact of Articles 5, 12 [...] and Chapter V, and the impact of this Directive on the national labour market situations. The Commission shall also assess the operation of Article 2, point i), and examine the relevance of occupations beyond those listed in the Annex, where professional experience that may justifiably be considered equivalent to formal educational qualifications for the purpose of this Directive, could be taken into account as a criterion for deciding on an application for a Blue Card. The Commission shall propose any amendments that are necessary.
313.	The Commission shall notably assess the relevance of the salary threshold set out in Article 5 and of the derogations provided for in that Article, taking into account,	Amendment 185 The Commission shall notably assess the relevance of the salary threshold set out in Article	The Commission shall notably assess the relevance of the salary threshold set out in Article 5 and of the	<i>Compromise package:</i> The Commission shall notably assess the relevance of the salary threshold set out

	among others, the diversity of the economical, sectorial and geographical situations and the labour market impact within the Member States.	5 [...], taking into account, among others, the diversity of the economical, sectorial and geographical situations and the labour market impact within the Member States.	derogations provided for in that Article, taking into account, among others, the diversity of the economical, sectorial and geographical situations [...].	in Article 5 and of the derogations provided for in that Article, taking into account, among others, the diversity of the economical, sectorial and geographical situations and the labour market impact within the Member States.
314.	<i>Article 26</i> <i>Cooperation between contact points</i>		<i>Article 26</i> <i>Cooperation between contact points</i>	
315.	1. Member States shall appoint contact points which shall be responsible for receiving and transmitting the information needed to implement Articles 17, 19, 20 and 23 and shall cooperate effectively with each other.		1. Member States shall appoint contact points which shall be responsible for receiving and transmitting the information needed to implement Articles 17, 19, 20 and 23 and shall cooperate effectively with each other.	
316.	2. The Member States' contact points shall in particular cooperate effectively regarding validation arrangements with stakeholders in the education, training, employment and youth sectors, as well as other relevant policy areas, needed to implement Articles 5(1)(c) and 5(6).		2. The Member States' contact points shall in particular cooperate effectively regarding validation arrangements with stakeholders in the education, training, employment and youth sectors, as well as other relevant policy areas, needed to implement Articles 5(1)(c) [...].	
317.	3. Member States shall provide appropriate cooperation in the exchange of the		3. Member States shall provide appropriate	

	information and documentation referred to in paragraph 1. Member States shall give preference to exchanging information via electronic means.		cooperation in the exchange of the information and documentation referred to in paragraph 1. Member States shall give preference to exchanging information via electronic means.	
317a		Amendment 186 <i>Article 26a Amendment to Directive (EU) 2016/801</i>		
317b		<i>In Article 2 of Directive (EU) 2016/801, point (g) is replaced by the following:</i> <i>"(g) who apply to reside in a Member State for the purpose of highly skilled employment within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2017/...^{*,+}</i> <i>* Directive (EU) .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment (OJ L ..., p. ...)."</i> <i>+ OJ: Please insert in the text the number of</i>		<i>Agreement confirmed at trilogue on 27.11.17:</i> <i>In Article 2 of Directive (EU) 2016/801, point (g) is replaced by the following:</i> <i>"(g) who apply to reside in a Member State for the purpose of highly skilled employment within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2017/...^{*,+}</i> <i>* Directive (EU) .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment (OJ L ..., p. ...)."</i>

		<i>the Directive contained in document under interinstitutional code (2016/0176(COD)) and insert the number, name, date and OJ reference of that Directive in the footnote.</i>		⁺ <i>OJ: Please insert in the text the number of the Directive contained in document under interinstitutional code (2016/0176(COD)) and insert the number, name, date and OJ reference of that Directive in the footnote.</i>
318.	<i>Article 27 Repeal of Directive 2009/50/EC</i>		<i>Article 27 Repeal of Directive 2009/50/EC</i>	
319.	Directive 2009/50/EC is repealed with effect from ... [two years+1 day after the date of entry into force of this Directive].		Directive 2009/50/EC is repealed with effect from ... [[...] 2.5 years+1 day after the date of entry into force of this Directive].	<i>Compromise package:</i> Directive 2009/50/EC is repealed with effect from ... [two years+1 day after the date of entry into force of this Directive].
320.	References to the repealed Directive shall be construed as references to this Directive and shall be read in accordance with the correlation tables in Annex [].		References to the repealed Directive shall be construed as references to this Directive and shall be read in accordance with the correlation tables in Annex [].	
321.	<i>Article 28 Transposition</i>		<i>Article 28 Transposition</i>	
322.	1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by [Two years after the date of entry into force of this Directive]. They		1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by [[...] 2.5 years	<i>Compromise package:</i> 1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to

	shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.		<i>after the date of entry into force of this Directive</i>]. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.	comply with this Directive by [Two years after the date of entry into force of this Directive]. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.
323.	When Member States adopt those provisions, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or shall be accompanied by such reference on the occasion of their official publication. Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made.		When Member States adopt those provisions, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or shall be accompanied by such reference on the occasion of their official publication. Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made.	
324.	2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.		2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.	
325.	3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provision necessary to comply with points (g) and (i) of Article 2 with regard to recognising higher professional skills as higher professional qualifications by [2 years after the general transposition deadline].	Amendment 187 <i>deleted</i>	<i>deleted</i>	<i>Compromise package</i> <i>Retain Council mandate</i>

326.	<i>Article 29 Entry into force</i>		<i>Article 29 Entry into force</i>	
327.	This Directive shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> .		This Directive shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> .	
328.	<i>Article 30 Addressees</i>		<i>Article 30 Addressees</i>	
329.	This Directive is addressed to the Member States, in accordance with the Treaties.		This Directive is addressed to the Member States, in accordance with the Treaties.	
330.	Done at Strasbourg,		Done at Strasbourg,	
331.	<i>For the European Parliament The president</i>		<i>For the European Parliament The president</i>	
332.	<i>For the Council The President</i>		<i>For the Council The President</i>	

Consolidated text of the Blue Card Directive

Greened text

Presidency compromise package

Existing Council mandate

Article 1: Subject matter

This Directive lays down:

- (a) the conditions of entry and residence for more than three months in the territory of the Member States, and the rights, of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment, and of their family members;
- (b) the conditions of entry and residence, and the rights, of third-country nationals and of their family members, referred to in point (a), in Member States other than the Member State which first granted an EU Blue Card.

Article 2: Definitions

For the purposes of this Directive:

- (a) "third-country national" means any person who is not a citizen of the Union within the meaning of Article 20(1) of the Treaty **on the functioning of the European Union**;
- b) "highly [...] qualified employment" means [...] the employment [...] of a person who:
 - in the Member State concerned, is protected as an employee under national employment law or in accordance with national practice, irrespective of the legal relationship, for the purpose of exercising genuine and effective work for, or under the direction of, someone else;
 - is paid; and
 - has the required [...] higher professional qualifications;
- (c) "EU Blue Card" means the residence permit bearing the term "EU Blue Card" entitling its holder to reside and work in the territory of a Member State under the terms of this Directive;
- (d) "first Member State" means the Member State which first grants a third-country national an "EU Blue Card";
- (e) "second Member State" means any Member State in which the EU Blue Card holder intends to exercise or exercises the right of mobility within the meaning of this Directive, other than the first Member State;

(f) "family members" means third-country nationals as defined in Article 4(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC;

(g) "higher professional qualifications" means qualifications attested by evidence of higher education qualifications or higher professional skills;

(h) "higher education qualifications" means any diploma, certificate or other evidence of formal qualifications issued by a competent authority attesting the successful completion of a post-secondary higher education or equivalent tertiary education programme, namely a set of courses provided by an educational establishment recognised as a higher education institution or equivalent tertiary educational institution by the State in which it is situated, where the studies needed to acquire those qualifications lasted at least three years and correspond at least to ISCED 2011 level 6, according to national law.

(i) "higher professional skills", as concerns the occupations listed in the Annex, means knowledge, skills and competences attested by professional experience of a level comparable to higher education qualifications, which is relevant in the profession or sector specified in the work contract or binding job offer, and which has been acquired over the duration defined in the Annex for each relevant occupation ; as concerns other occupations, only **where provided for by national law or national procedures**, means **knowledge, skills and competences** attested by at least [...] **five** years of professional experience of a level comparable to higher education qualifications and which is relevant in the profession or sector specified in the work contract or binding job offer;

ANNEX I – List of occupations referred to in Article 2, point (i)

- Information and communications technology managers and professionals, belonging to the following groups in the ISCO-08 classification:

- 133 Information and communications technology service managers (duration: 3 years within the last 7 years)

- 25 Information and communications technology professional (duration: 3 years within the last 7 years).

(j) "professional experience" means the actual and lawful pursuit of the profession concerned;(k)

"regulated profession" means a regulated profession as defined in Article 3(1) (a) of Directive 2005/36/EC;

(l) "business activity" means a temporary activity directly related to the business interests of the employer [...] and to the professional duties of the EU Blue Card holder based on the employment contract in the first Member State, including at least attending internal and external business

meetings, attending conferences and seminars, negotiating business deals, undertaking sales or marketing activities, [...] exploring business opportunities, or attending and receiving training;

(m) “international protection” has the meaning as defined in Article 2(a) of Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Article 3: Scope

1. This Directive shall apply to third-country nationals who apply to be admitted or who have been admitted to the territory of a Member State for the purpose of highly [...] qualified employment.

2. This Directive shall not apply to third country nationals:

- (a) who seek international protection and are awaiting a decision on their status or who are beneficiaries of temporary protection in accordance with the Council Directive 2001/55/EC²⁴ in a Member State;
- (b) who seek protection in accordance with national law, international obligations or practice of the Member State and are awaiting a decision on their status, or who are beneficiaries of protection in accordance with national law, international obligations or practice of the Member State;
- (c) who apply to reside in a Member State as researchers within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2016/801 in order to carry out a research project;
- (d) who enjoy EU long-term resident status in a Member State in accordance with Directive 2003/109/EC and exercise their right to reside in another Member State in order to carry out an economic activity in an employed or self-employed capacity;
- (e) who enter a Member State under commitments contained in an international agreement facilitating the entry and temporary stay of certain categories of trade and investment-related natural persons, with the exception of third-country nationals who have been admitted to the territory of a Member State as intra-corporate transferees pursuant to Directive 2014/66/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁶;
- (g) whose expulsion has been suspended for reasons of fact or law;
- (h) who are covered by Directive 96/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as long as they are posted on the territory of the Member State concerned;
- (i) who under agreements between the Union and its Member States and third countries, as nationals of those third countries, enjoy rights of free movement equivalent to those of Union citizens.

3. Deleted

4. This Directive shall be without prejudice to the right of the Member States [...] to issue [...] residence permits other than an EU Blue Card [...] for the purpose of highly [...] qualified employment. Such residence permits shall not confer the right of residence in the other Member States as provided for in this Directive.

Article 4: More favourable provisions

1. This Directive shall be without prejudice to more favourable provisions of:

- (a) Union law, including bilateral or multilateral agreements concluded between the Union or the Union and its Member States on the one hand and one or more third countries on the other;
- (b) bilateral or multilateral agreements [...] concluded between one or more Member States and one or more third countries [...].

2. This Directive shall not affect the right of Member States to adopt or retain more favourable provisions in respect of Articles 10, [14], 15, 16 and 17(5).

Article 5: Criteria for admission

1. As regards the admission of a third-country national [...] under this Directive, the applicant shall:

- (a) present a valid work contract or, as provided for in national law, a binding job offer for highly qualified employment, of at least six months in the Member State concerned;
- (aa) for unregulated professions, present the [documents] attesting relevant higher professional qualifications in relation to the work to be carried out [...];
- (b) for regulated professions, present [...] the documents attesting fulfilment of the conditions set out under national law for the exercise by Union citizens of the regulated profession specified in the work contract or binding job offer as provided for in national law;
- (d) present a valid travel document, as determined by national law, and, if required, an application for a visa or a valid visa or, where applicable, a valid residence permit or a valid long-stay visa.
- (e) [...] provide evidence of having or, if provided for by national law, having applied for a sickness insurance for all the risks normally covered for nationals of the Member State concerned for periods where no such insurance coverage and corresponding entitlement to benefits are provided in connection with, or resulting from, the work contract.

2. In addition to the conditions laid down in paragraphs 1 and 3, the gross annual salary resulting from the monthly or annual salary specified in the work contract or binding job offer shall not be inferior to the salary threshold set and published for that purpose by the Member States. The salary threshold shall be set by the Member States, after consultation with the social partners according to

national practices, and be at least [...] 1.1 [1.0] times but not higher than [...] 1.7 [1.6] times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned.

3. Member States shall require that all conditions in the applicable laws, collective agreements or practices in the relevant occupational branches for highly [...] qualified employment are met.

4. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, and for employment in professions which are in particular need of third-country national workers and which belong to major groups 1 and 2 of ISCO, Member States may apply a lower [...] salary threshold [...] of at least 80 percent of the salary threshold set by the Member State concerned in accordance with paragraph 2, which in any event shall not be lower than 1.0 times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned.

5. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, as regards third-country nationals who have obtained a higher education qualification not more than three years before submitting the application for an EU Blue Card, Member States may apply a lower [...] salary threshold [...] of at least 80 percent of the salary threshold set [...] by the Member State concerned in accordance with paragraph 2, which in any event shall not be lower than 1.0 times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned.

Where the EU Blue Card issued during the period of three years is renewed, the salary threshold referred to in the first subparagraph [...] shall continue to apply if [...]:

- (a) the initial period of three years has not elapsed; or
- (b) a period of 24 months after the issuance of the first EU Blue Card has not elapsed.

7. [...] Third-country nationals who are considered to pose a threat to public policy, public security or public health shall not be admitted.

8. Member States may require the third-country national concerned to provide his or her address in their territory.

Where the national law of a Member State requires an address to be provided at the time of application and the third-country national concerned does not yet know his or her future address, Member States shall accept a temporary address. In such a case, the third-country national shall

provide his or her permanent address at the latest when the EU Blue Card pursuant to Article 8 is issued.

Article 5a : Volumes of admission

This Directive shall not affect the right of a Member State to determine the volumes of admission of third-country nationals in accordance with Article 79(5) TFEU. On that basis, an application for an EU Blue Card may either be considered inadmissible or be rejected.

Article 6: Grounds for refusal

1. Member States shall reject an application for an EU Blue Card [...]:

- (a) where [...] Article 5 is not complied with; [or]
- (b) where the documents presented have been fraudulently acquired, or falsified or tampered with;
- (c) where the third-country national is considered to pose a threat to public policy, public security or public health; or
- (d) where the employer's business was established or operates for the main purpose of facilitating the entry of third-country nationals.

3. Member States may reject an application for an EU Blue Card [...]:

- (a) where the competent authorities of the Member State, after checking the labour market situation, for example where there is a high level of unemployment, conclude that the concerned vacancy may be filled by national or Union workforce, by third-country nationals lawfully resident in that Member State and already forming part of its labour market by virtue of Union or national law, or by EU long-term residents wishing to move to that Member State for highly [...] qualified employment in accordance with Chapter III of Directive 2003/109/EC;
- (aa) **where** the employer has failed to meet its legal obligations regarding social security, taxation, labour rights or working conditions;
- (b) **where** the employer's business is being or has been wound up under national insolvency laws or no economic activity is taking place; [...]
- (c) where the employer has been sanctioned for employment of illegally staying third-country nationals in accordance with Article 9 of Directive 2009/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁹, or for undeclared work or illegal employment according to national law;
- (cb) to ensure ethical recruitment in professions suffering from a lack of qualified workers in the countries of origin, including on the basis of an agreement listing professions for this purpose between the Union and its Member States and one or more third countries on the one hand or between the Member States and one or more third countries on the other hand.

4. Deleted

5. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, any decision to reject an application shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and respect the principle of proportionality.

Article 7: Withdrawal or non-renewal of the EU Blue Card

1. Member States shall withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card where:

(a) the EU Blue Card or the documents presented have been fraudulently acquired, or have been falsified or tampered with;

(b) the third-country national no longer holds a valid work contract for highly [...] qualified employment, without prejudice to the situation in which the third-country national is unemployed;

(ba) the third-country national no longer holds the qualifications required in points (b) and (aa) of Article 5(1); or

(bc) the salary of the third-country national no longer meets the salary threshold as set in accordance with Article 5(2), (4) or (5), as applicable, without prejudice to paragraph 3aa of this Article and without prejudice to the situation in which the third-country national is unemployed.

2. Member States may withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card [...] in any of the following cases:

a) for reasons of public policy, public security or public health;

(b) where appropriate, where the employer has failed to meet its legal obligations regarding social security, taxation, labour rights or working conditions;

(ba) wherever the EU Blue Card holder does not have sufficient resources to maintain himself or herself and, where applicable, the members of his or her family without having recourse to the social assistance system of the Member State concerned. Member States shall evaluate these resources by reference to their nature and regularity and may take into account the level of minimum national wages or minimum income and pensions as well as the number of family members of the EU Blue Card holder. Such evaluation shall take into account the contributions of the family members to the household income and it shall not take place during the period of unemployment referred to in Article 14;

bb) where the EU Blue Card holder is residing in the Member State concerned for purposes other than those for which he or she was authorised to reside.

(c) where the conditions in the applicable laws, collective agreements or practices in the relevant occupational branches for highly [...] **qualified** employment are no longer met;

(d) where the [...] EU Blue Card holder has not [...] complied with the relevant procedures as provided for in Article 13 (1a) (a), (1b), and (1c);

(e) where the third-country national no longer holds a valid travel document, provided that prior to withdrawing the EU Blue Card, the Member State had set a reasonable deadline for the third-country national concerned to obtain and present a valid travel document;

(f) where the third-country national fails to comply with the conditions of mobility under [...] Chapter V.

3. By way of derogation from point (d) of paragraph 2 of this Article, the lack of communication pursuant to point (a) of Article 13(1a) or to Article 13(1b) or (1c) shall not be considered to be a sufficient reason for withdrawing or not renewing the EU Blue Card if the holder proves that the communication did not reach the competent authorities for a reason independent of the holder's will.

3a. Member States may decide not to withdraw or not to refuse to renew an EU Blue Card where the EU Blue Card holder temporarily and in any case for no longer than 12 months does not fulfil the criteria for admission in paragraph 2 or, where applicable, paragraph 4 or 5 of Article 5 as a result of illness, disability or parental leave.

3aa. The Blue Card may only be withdrawn or not renewed in case of unemployment of the Blue Card holder if:

- (a) the Blue Card holder cumulates a period of unemployment exceeding three months, where the third-country national has held a Blue Card for less than two years, or
- (b) the Blue Card holder cumulates a period of unemployment exceeding six months, where the third-country national has held a Blue Card for more than two years.

3ab. Where a Member State intends to withdraw or not renew the EU Blue Card in accordance with points (b) and (c) of paragraph 2, the competent authority shall notify the EU Blue Card holder in advance and set him or her a reasonable deadline of at least three months to seek new employment subject to the conditions set out in Article 13(1), (1a) and (1b). The period to seek employment shall be six months where the EU Blue Card holder has been previously employed for, at least, two years.

4. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, any decision to withdraw or refuse to renew an EU Blue Card shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and respect the principle of proportionality.

Article 8: EU Blue Card

1. Where a third-country national fulfils the criteria set out in Article 5 and where no ground for rejection pursuant to Article 6 applies, he or she shall be issued with an EU Blue Card.

Where a Member State only issues residence permits on its territory and the third-country national fulfils all the admission conditions laid down in this Directive, the Member State concerned shall issue him or her the requisite visa.

2. Member States shall set a standard period of validity for the EU Blue Card, which shall be at least 24 months. If the work contract covers a shorter period, the EU Blue Card shall be issued at least for the duration of the work contract plus three months but no longer than the standard period set out in accordance with the first sentence. If the period of validity of the travel document is shorter than the period set out in accordance with the first or the second sentence, the EU Blue Card shall be issued at least for the period of validity of the travel document.

3. The EU Blue Card shall be issued by the competent authorities of the Member State using the uniform format as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002. In accordance with point (a) 7.5-9 of the Annex to that Regulation, Member States shall indicate on the EU Blue Card the conditions for access to the labour market as set out in Article 13(1) of this Directive. Member States shall enter the words "EU Blue Card" under the heading "type of permit" in the residence permit. Member States may indicate additional information related to the employment relationship of the EU Blue Card holder in paper format, or store such data in electronic format as referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 and in point (a)16 of the Annex thereto.

4. Where a Member State issues an EU Blue Card to a third-country national to whom it has granted international protection, it shall enter the following remark in that third-country national's EU Blue Card, under the heading "Remarks": "International protection granted by [name of the Member State] on [date]". Where that Member State withdraws the international protection enjoyed by the EU Blue Card holder, it shall, where appropriate, issue a new EU Blue Card not containing that remark.

5. Where an EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State to a third-country national who is a beneficiary of international protection in another Member State, the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card shall enter the following remark in that third-country national's EU Blue Card, under the heading "Remarks": "International protection granted by [name of the Member State] on [date]" [...].

Before the Member State enters that remark, it shall notify the Member State to be mentioned in that remark of the issuance of the EU Blue Card and request that Member State to provide information as to whether the EU Blue Card holder is still a beneficiary of international protection. The Member State **to be** mentioned in the remark shall reply no later than one month after receiving the request for information. Where international protection has been withdrawn by a final decision, the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card shall not enter that remark. Where, in accordance with the relevant international instruments or national law, responsibility for the international protection of the EU Blue Card holder was transferred to the Member State after it issued an EU Blue Card in accordance with the first subparagraph, that Member State shall amend the remark accordingly within three months after the transfer.

5a. Where an EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State on the basis of higher professional skills in occupations not listed in the Annex, it shall enter the following remark in that third-country national's EU Blue Card, under the heading "Remarks": "Non-Annex professional skills".

6. During the period of its validity, the EU Blue Card shall entitle its holder to:

- (a) enter, re-enter and stay in the territory of the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card;
- (b) enjoy the rights recognised in this Directive.

Article 9: Applications for admission

1. Member States shall determine whether applications for an EU Blue Card are to be made by the third-country national or by the employer. Member States may also allow an application from either of the two.

2. The application shall be considered and examined either when the third-country national concerned is residing outside the territory of the Member State to which he or she wishes to be admitted, or when he or she is already [...] residing in the territory of that Member State as holder of a valid residence permit or long-stay visa.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, a Member State may accept, in accordance with its national law, an application submitted when the third-country national concerned is not in possession of a valid residence permit or long-stay visa but is legally present in its territory.

Article 10: Procedural safeguards

1. The competent authorities of the Member States shall adopt a decision on the application for an EU Blue Card and notify the applicant in writing, in accordance with the notification procedures laid down in the national law of the Member State concerned. The [...] decision shall be [...] adopted and notified *as soon as possible, but at the latest within [...] 90 days of the date of submission of the complete application.*

Where the employer has been recognised in accordance with Article 12, the [...] decision shall be [...] adopted and notified *as soon as possible but at the latest within 30 days of the date of submission of the complete application.*

2. Deleted

3. Where the information or documents supplied in support of the application are inadequate or incomplete, the competent authorities shall notify the applicant of the additional information that is required and set a reasonable deadline for providing it. The period referred to in paragraph 1 shall be suspended until the authorities have received the additional information or documents required. If the additional information or documents have not been provided within the deadline, the application may be rejected.

4. Any decision rejecting an application for an EU Blue Card, any decision to withdraw an EU Blue Card, or any decision not to renew an EU Blue Card shall be notified in writing to the third-country national concerned and, where relevant, to his or her employer in accordance with the notification procedures set out in the relevant national law. The notification shall specify the reasons for the decision and the competent authority with which an appeal may be submitted as well as the time limit for submitting the appeal. Member States shall provide an effective judicial remedy, in accordance with national law.

5. An applicant shall be allowed to submit an application for renewal before the expiry of the EU Blue Card. Member States may set a maximum deadline of 90 days prior to the expiry of the EU Blue Card for submitting an application for renewal.

6. Where the validity of the EU Blue Card expires during the procedure for renewal, Member States shall allow the third-country national to stay as an EU Blue Card holder on their territory until the competent authorities have taken a decision on the application.

7. Where an application for an EU Blue Card concerns a third-country national who holds a national residence permit for the purpose of highly qualified employment issued by the same Member State, the concerned Member State shall not:

- a) require the applicant to present the documents provided for in Article 5(1)(aa) or (b) if the relevant higher professional qualifications were already verified in the context of the application for the national residence permit;
- b) require the applicant to present the evidence provided for in Article 5(1)(e) unless the application is submitted in the context of a change of employment, in which case Article 13(1a) shall apply accordingly;
- c) apply Article 6(3)(a) unless the application is submitted in the context of a change of employment, in which case Article 13(1a) shall apply accordingly.

8. Where Member States issue national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment, they shall grant EU Blue Card holders the same procedural safeguards as those provided for under the national scheme, where these are more favourable than those provided for in paragraphs 1 to 6 of this Article.

Article 11: Fees

Member States may require the payment of fees for the handling of applications in accordance with this Directive. The level of fees required by a Member [...] State for the processing of applications shall not be disproportionate or excessive.

Where Member States issue national permits for the purpose of highly skilled employment, they shall not require EU Blue Card applicants to pay higher fees than those required from applicants for national permits.

Article 12: Recognised employers

1. Member States may decide to provide for recognition procedures for employers in accordance with their national law or administrative practice for the purpose of applying simplified procedures for obtaining an EU Blue Card.

Where a Member State decides to provide for recognition procedures, it shall provide clear and transparent information to the employers concerned about, among others, the conditions and criteria for approval, the period of validity of the recognition and the consequences of non-compliance with the conditions, including possible withdrawal and non-renewal, as well as any sanction applicable.

The recognition procedures shall not entail disproportionate or excessive administrative burden or costs for the employers, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises.

2. The simplified procedures shall include processing of applications as provided for in the second subparagraph of Article 10(1). Applicants shall be exempt from presenting one or more pieces of evidence referred to in points [...](aa) [...] or (e) of Article 5(1) [...] or in Article 5(8).

3. Member States may refuse to recognise an employer pursuant to paragraph 1, where the employer has been sanctioned for [...]:

(a) employment of illegally staying third-country nationals pursuant to Directive 2009/52/EC, or

(b) undeclared work or illegal employment according to national law, or

(c) failing to meet its legal obligations regarding social security, taxation, labour rights or working conditions.

Any decision to refuse to recognise an employer shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case, including the time elapsed since the sanction was imposed, and respect the principle of proportionality.

Member States may [...] refuse to renew or decide to withdraw the status of recognised employer where the employer has not respected its obligations under this Directive or in cases where the recognition has been fraudulently acquired.

4. Where Member States issue national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment and have established recognition procedures for employers facilitating the issuance of such permits, they shall apply the same recognition procedures to applications for EU Blue Cards, where these procedures are more favourable than those provided for in paragraphs 1 to 3 of this Article.

Article 12a: Sanctions against employers

1. Member States shall provide for sanctions against employers who have not fulfilled their obligations under this Directive. Those sanctions shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive.

2. Member States shall provide for measures to prevent possible abuses of this Directive. Those measures shall include monitoring, assessment and, where appropriate, inspection in accordance with national law or administrative practice.

Article 13: Labour market access

1. EU Blue Card holders shall have [...] access to highly [skilled/qualified] employment in the Member State concerned under the conditions provided for in this Article.

1a. During the first twelve months of legal employment as an EU Blue Card holder, Member States may:

- (a) require that a change of employer or a change which may affect the fulfilment of the criteria for admission as set out in Article 5 be communicated to the competent authorities in the Member State concerned, in accordance with procedures laid down in national law, and
- (b) require that a change of employer be subject to the check of the labour market situation, where Member States carry out such a check in accordance with Article 6(3)(a).

The right of the Blue Card holder to pursue the new employment may be suspended for a maximum of 30 days while the Member State concerned checks that the conditions for admission laid down in Article 5 are fulfilled and that the vacancy concerned could not be filled by the persons listed in Article 6(3)(a), and may oppose the change of employment within those 30 days. Where Member States suspend the right of the Blue Card holder to pursue the employment, they shall allow the EU Blue Card holder to remain on their territory for that period.

1b. After these first twelve months, Member States may only require that a change of employer or a change affecting the fulfilment of the criteria for admission as set out in Article 5 be communicated in accordance with procedures laid down by national law. The communication procedure shall not suspend the right of the EU Blue Card holder to pursue the employment.

1c. During a period of unemployment, the EU Blue Card holder shall be allowed to seek and take up employment in accordance with the conditions set out in this Article. The EU Blue Card holder shall communicate the beginning and, where appropriate, the end of the period of unemployment to the competent authorities of the Member State of residence, in accordance with the relevant national procedures.

2. Without prejudice to the criteria for admission set out in Article 5, Member States may allow EU Blue Card holders [...] to engage in self-employed activity in parallel to the activity in highly [...] qualified employment in accordance with conditions laid down in national law. Member States are entitled to limit the scope of allowed self-employed activity. Any such activity shall be subsidiary to their employment under the EU Blue Card.

Where Member States issue national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment, they shall guarantee EU Blue Card holders access to self-employed activities under no less favourable conditions than those provided for under the national scheme.

2a. Without prejudice to the criteria for admission set out in Article 5, Member States may allow EU Blue Card holders to engage in professional activities other than their main activity as an EU Blue Card holder in accordance with conditions laid down in national law.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States may retain restrictions on access to employment [...] provided such employment activities entail the exercise, or at least occasional involvement in the exercise, of public authority and the responsibility for safeguarding the general interest of the State or where, in accordance with existing national or Union law, these employment activities are reserved to nationals, Union citizens or EEA citizens.

3a. Member States may retain restrictions on access to employment activities, in cases where, in accordance with existing national law, these activities are reserved to nationals, Union citizens or EEA citizens.

4. This Article shall apply without prejudice to the principle of preference for Union citizens where applicable under the provisions of the relevant Acts of Accession.

Article 14: Deleted

Article 15: Equal treatment

1. EU Blue Card holders shall enjoy equal treatment with nationals of the Member State issuing the EU Blue Card, as regards:

(a) terms of employment, including the minimum working age, and working conditions, including pay and dismissal, working hours, leave and holidays, as well as health and safety requirements at the workplace;

(b) freedom of association and affiliation and membership of an organisation representing workers or employers or of any organisation whose members are engaged in a specific occupation, including the rights and benefits conferred by such organisations, without prejudice to the national provisions on public policy and public security;

(c) education and vocational training;

(d) recognition of diplomas, certificates and other professional qualifications in accordance with the relevant national procedures;

(e) branches of social security, as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004;
(f) access to goods and services and the supply of goods and services made available to the public, including procedures for obtaining housing, as well as information and counselling services afforded by employment offices.

2. With respect to point (c) of paragraph 1 the Member State concerned may restrict equal treatment as regards study and maintenance grants and loans or other grants and loans regarding secondary and higher education and vocational training. Access to university and post-secondary education may be subject to specific prerequisites in accordance with national law.

With respect to point (f) of paragraph 1 the Member State concerned may restrict equal treatment as regards procedures for obtaining housing. This shall be without prejudice to the freedom of contract in accordance with Union and national law.

3. EU Blue Card holders moving to a third country, or their survivors who reside in a third country and who derive rights from the EU Blue Card holder, shall receive, in relation to old age, invalidity and death, statutory pensions based on the EU Blue Card holder's previous employment and acquired in accordance with the legislation referred to in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004, under the same conditions and at the same rates as the nationals of the Member States concerned when they move to a third country.

4. The right to equal treatment laid down in paragraph 1 shall be without prejudice to the right of the Member State to withdraw or to refuse to renew the EU Blue Card in accordance with Article 7.

5. This Article shall not apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement under Union law in the Member State concerned.

6. This Article shall apply to EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of international protection only when they reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection.

7. Where Member States issue national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment, they shall grant EU Blue Card holders the same equal treatment rights as the ones granted to holders of national residence permits, where these are more favourable than those provided for in this Article.

Article 16: Family members

1. Council Directive 2003/86/EC shall apply with the derogations laid down in this Article.

2. By way of derogation from Articles 3(1) and 8 of Directive 2003/86/EC, family reunification shall not be made dependent on the requirement of the EU Blue Card holder having reasonable prospects of obtaining the right of permanent residence [...], to hold a residence permit for a period of validity of one year or more or having a minimum period of residence.

3. By way of derogation from the third subparagraph of Article 4(1) and from the second subparagraph of Article 7(2) of Directive 2003/86/EC, the integration conditions and measures referred to therein may only be applied after the persons concerned have been granted family reunification.

4. By way of derogation from the first subparagraph of Article 5(4) of Directive 2003/86/EC, where the conditions for family reunification are fulfilled and the complete applications were submitted simultaneously, [...] the decision for family members shall be [...] adopted and notified at the same time as the EU Blue Card. Where the family members join the EU Blue Card holder after the EU Blue Card has been granted to him or her and where the conditions for family reunification are fulfilled, [...] the decision shall be [...] adopted and notified as soon as possible but at the latest within [...] 90 days from the date on which the complete application was submitted. Article 10(3) of this Directive shall apply accordingly.

5. By way of derogation from Article 13(2) and (3) of Directive 2003/86/EC, the duration of validity of the residence permits of family members shall be the same as that of the EU Blue Card insofar as the period of validity of their travel documents allows it.

6. By way of derogation from Article 14 [...] (2) of Directive 2003/86/EC, Member States shall not apply any time limit in respect of access to the labour market. By way of derogation from Article 14(1)(b) of that Directive, and without prejudice to the restrictions referred to in Article 13(3) of this Directive, family members shall have access to any [...] employment, and to self-employed activity in accordance with applicable requirements under national law, in the Member State concerned.

7. By way of derogation from Article 15(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC, for the purposes of calculation of the five years of residence required for the acquisition of an autonomous residence permit,

residence in different Member States shall be cumulated. Member States may require two years of legal and continuous residence immediately prior to the submission of the relevant application within the territory of the Member State where the application for an autonomous residence permit is submitted.

8. The provisions set out in Article 17 concerning the accumulation of periods of residence in different Member States by the EU Blue Card holder for the purpose of acquiring the EU long-term resident status shall apply by analogy.

9. This Article shall not apply to **family members of those** EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement under Union law in the Member State concerned.

10. This Article shall apply to family members of those EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of international protection only when those EU Blue Card holders reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection.

11. Where Member States issue national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment, they shall grant EU Blue Card holders and their family members the same rights as those granted to holders of national residence permits and their family members, where these are more favourable than those provided for in this Article.

Article 17: EU long-term resident status for EU Blue Card holders

1. Directive 2003/109/EC shall apply with the derogations laid down in this Article.

2. Deleted

3. By way of derogation from Article 4(1) of Directive 2003/109/EC, the EU Blue Card holder having made use of the possibility provided for in Article 20 of this Directive is allowed to cumulate periods of residence in different Member States in order to fulfil the requirement concerning the duration of residence, if that holder has accumulated:

(a) five years of legal and continuous residence **as a holder of an EU Blue Card, of a national permit for highly skilled workers, an authorisation as a student or researcher in accordance with Directive (EU) 2016/801 or as a beneficiary of international protection** within the territory of the Member States;

(b) two years of legal and continuous residence as an EU Blue Card holder immediately prior to the submission of the relevant application within the territory of the Member State where the application for the EU long-term resident status is submitted.

Only half of the periods of residence for study purposes may be taken into account in the calculation of the period referred to in paragraph 3.

4. For the purpose of calculating the five years period of legal and continuous residence in the Union referred to in point (a) of paragraph 3 and by way of derogation from the first subparagraph of Article 4(3) of Directive 2003/109/EC, periods of absence from the territory of the Member States shall not interrupt the five years period if those periods of absence are shorter than twelve consecutive months and do not exceed in total eighteen months within the five years period of legal and continuous residence.

5. By way of derogation from Article 9(1)(c) of Directive 2003/109/EC, Member States shall extend to 24 consecutive months the period of absence from the territory of the Member States which is allowed to an EU long-term resident holder of a long-term residence permit with the remark referred to in Article 18(2) of this Directive and of his family members having been granted the EU long-term resident status.

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7. Point (f) of Article 15(1), **Article 15(3)**, Article 19 and, where applicable, Articles 16 and 21 shall apply to holders of a long-term residence permit with the remark referred to in Article 18(2).

8. Where the EU long-term resident who holds a long-term residence permit with the remark referred to in Article 18(2) of this Directive is exercising his or her right to move to a second Member State pursuant to Chapter III of Directive 2003/109/EC, **Article 14(3) and (4) of that Directive shall not apply. The second Member State may apply measures in accordance with Article 20(6) of this Directive.**

Article 18: Long-term residence permit

1. EU Blue Card holders who fulfil the conditions set out in Article 17 of this Directive for the acquisition of the EU long-term resident status shall be issued with a residence permit in accordance with Article 1(2)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002.

2. Member States shall enter the words "Former EU Blue Card holder" in the residence permit referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article under the heading "remarks".

Chapter V: MOBILITY BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

Article 19: Short-term mobility

1. Where a third-country national who holds a valid EU Blue Card issued by a Member State applying the Schengen acquis in full enters and stays in one or several second Member States for a period of 90 days in any 180-day period for the purpose of carrying out a business activity, the second Member State shall not require any authorisation for exercising such activity other than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State.

2. A third-country national who holds a valid EU Blue Card issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full shall be entitled to enter and stay for the purpose of carrying out a business activity in one or several second Member States for up to 90 days in any 180-day period on the basis of the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State **and a valid travel document.**

Where the EU Blue Card holder crosses an internal border where controls have not yet been lifted, the second Member State applying the Schengen Acquis in full may require the EU Blue Card holder to provide evidence of the business purpose of the stay. The second Member State shall not require any authorisation for exercising the business activity other than the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State.

Article 20: Long-term mobility

1. After twelve months of legal residence in the first Member State as an EU Blue Card holder, the third-country national shall be entitled to enter, **reside and work in** a second Member State for the purpose of highly **qualified** employment on the basis of the EU Blue Card and a valid travel document under the conditions set out in this Article.

1a. Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full and the EU Blue Card holder crosses, for the purpose of long-term-mobility, an internal border where controls have not yet been lifted, the second Member State applying the Schengen Acquis in full may require the EU Blue Card holder to provide the valid EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State and a work contract or a binding job offer for highly qualified employment of at least six months in the second Member State.

2. As soon as possible and no later than one month after entering the territory of the second Member State, the EU Blue Card holder or his **or her** employer or [...] **either of the two** shall submit an **application** for an EU Blue Card to the competent authority of that Member State and present all the documents proving the fulfilment of the conditions referred to in paragraph 3 for the second Member State.

The EU Blue Card holder shall be allowed to work in the second Member State **at the latest 30 days** after the submission of the complete application.

The application may also be submitted to the competent authorities of the second Member State while the EU Blue Card holder is still residing in the territory of the first Member State.

3. For the purposes of the application referred to in paragraph 2, the EU Blue Card holder shall present:

(a) the valid EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State;

(b) a valid work contract or, as provided for in national law, a binding job offer for highly **qualified** employment, of at least six months in the second Member State;

(c) for regulated professions, present a document attesting fulfilment of the conditions set out under national law for the exercise by Union citizens of the regulated profession specified in the work contract or binding job offer as provided for in national law. **For the purpose of applying for an EU Blue Card in a second Member State, EU Blue Card holders shall enjoy equal treatment with Union citizens as regards recognition of professional qualifications, in accordance with applicable EU and national law.**

(d) present a valid travel document, as determined by national law;

(e) evidence of meeting the salary threshold set in the second Member State in application of paragraph 2 or, where applicable, of paragraphs 4 or 5 of Article 5.

Where the EU Blue Card has been issued in the first Member State on the basis of higher professional skills for occupations not listed in the Annex, the EU Blue Card holder shall present

the documents attesting higher professional qualifications in relation to the work to be carried out, as provided for in the national law of the second Member State.

3a. For the purposes of the application referred to in paragraph 2, the Member State concerned may **require** the EU Blue Card holder:

(a) **where the EU Blue Card holder worked for less than two years in the first Member State**, to present the documents attesting higher professional qualifications in relation to the work to be carried out as provided for in national law;

(b) to provide evidence of having, or if provided for by national law, applied for a sickness insurance for all the risks normally covered for nationals of the Member States concerned for periods where no such insurance coverage and corresponding entitlement to benefits are provided in connection with, or resulting from, the work contract.

4. The second Member State shall reject an application for an EU Blue Card in any of the following cases:

(a) paragraph 3 is not complied with;

(b) the documents were fraudulently acquired, or falsified or tampered with;

(c) the employment does not comply with the conditions laid down in the applicable laws, collective agreements or practices as referred to in Article 5(3);

(d) the EU Blue Card holder poses a threat to public policy, public security or public health.

4a. In respect of any application procedure for the purpose of long-term mobility, the procedural safeguards set out in Article 10 (3) and (4) shall apply accordingly. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, a decision to reject an application for long term mobility shall take account of the specific circumstances of the case and respect the principle of proportionality.

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6. The second Member State may reject an application for an EU Blue Card on the basis of a check **carried out** in accordance with Article 6(3)(a) [...] only if that Member State **carries out such checks when it is the first Member State**.

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8. The second Member State shall adopt a decision on an application for an EU Blue Card to either:

(a) where the conditions laid down in this Article are fulfilled, issue an EU Blue Card and allow the third-country national to reside on its territory for the purpose of highly [...] **qualified** employment; or

(b) where the applicant has failed to comply with the conditions for mobility laid down in this Article, reject the application and oblige the applicant and his family members, in accordance with the procedures provided for in national law, to leave its territory.

By way of derogation from Article 10(1), the second Member State shall notify the applicant and the first Member State in writing of its decision as soon as possible, but at the latest within [...] 30 days of the date of submission of the complete application.

Under exceptional and duly justified circumstances linked to the complexity of the application, Member States may extend the maximum period by 30 days. They shall inform the applicant of the extension before that maximum period has expired.

In its notification to the first Member State, the second Member State shall specify the grounds referred to in (b) and (d) of paragraph 4 for rejecting the application.

9. Where the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State expires during the procedure, the second Member State may issue, if so required by national law, national temporary residence permits, or equivalent authorisations, allowing the applicant to continue to stay legally on its territory until a decision on the application has been taken by the competent authorities.

10. From the second time that an EU Blue Card holder and, where applicable, his family members, make use of the possibility to move to another Member State [...] **under Articles 20 and 21**, "first Member State" shall be understood as meaning the Member State from where the person concerned moves and "second Member State" as meaning the Member State to which he **or she** is applying to reside. By way of derogation from Article 20(1), an EU Blue Card holder may move to another Member State a second time after six months of legal residence in the first Member State as an EU Blue Card holder.

Article 21: Residence in the second Member State for family members

1. Where the EU Blue Card holder moves to a second Member State in accordance with Article 20 and where the family was already constituted in the first Member State, the members of his or her

family shall be **entitled** to accompany or join the EU Blue Card holder. Directive 2003/86/EC and Article 16 shall apply, subject to the derogations provided for in paragraphs 1a to 8. Where the family was not already constituted in the first Member State, Article 16 shall apply.

1a. By way of derogation from 13(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC, the members of the EU Blue Card holder's family shall be [...] **entitled** [...] to enter and stay in the second Member State based on the valid residence permits obtained as family members of an EU Blue Card holder in the first Member State [...].

Where the EU Blue Card is issued by a Member State not applying the Schengen acquis in full and the family members of an EU Blue Card holder join him or her, when crossing an internal border where controls have not yet been lifted for the purpose of moving to a second Member State, the second Member State applying the Schengen Acquis in full may require that family members present their residence permits in the first Member State as family members of the EU Blue Card holder.

2. By way of derogation from Article 5(3) of Directive 2003/86/EC, no later than one month after entering the territory of the second Member State, the family members concerned or the EU Blue Card holder, in accordance with national law, shall submit an application for a residence permit as a family member to the competent authorities of that Member State.

Where the residence permit of the family member issued by the first Member State expires during the procedure or no longer entitles the holder to reside legally on the territory of the second Member State, the second Member State shall allow the family member to stay in their territory, if necessary by issuing national temporary residence permits or equivalent authorisations, until a decision on the application has been taken by the competent authorities of the second Member State.

3. By way of derogation from Articles 5(2) and 7(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC, the second Member State may [...] require the family members concerned to present with their application for a residence permit:

- (a) their residence permit in the first Member State and a valid travel document, or certified copies thereof;
- (b) evidence that they have resided as members of the family of the EU Blue Card holder in the first Member State;
- (c) evidence referred to in points (b) of Article 7(1) of Directive 2003/86/EC.

4. Where the conditions set out in this Article are fulfilled and the applications were submitted simultaneously, the second Member State shall issue the residence permits for family members at the same time as the EU Blue Card.

By way of derogation from Article 16(4)], where the conditions set out in this Article are fulfilled and the family members join the EU Blue Card holder after the EU Blue Card has been granted to him or her, residence permits for family members shall be granted at the latest within 30 days from the date on which the application was submitted. In duly justified circumstances linked to the complexity of the application, Member States may extend period by a maximum of 30 days.

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7. This Article shall apply to **family members of those EU Blue Card holders** who are beneficiaries of international protection only when [...] **those EU Blue Card holders** move to reside in a Member State other than the Member State which granted them international protection.

8. This Article shall not apply to **family members of those** EU Blue Card holders who are beneficiaries of the right to free movement under Union law in the second Member State.

Article 22: Safeguards and sanctions in cases of mobility

1. [Provision moved under Articles 19 and 20]

1a. The first Member State shall not withdraw an EU Blue Card on the basis that an EU Blue Card holder crosses an external border for the purpose of mobility, or during the process for that purpose in the second Member State, until the first Member State has ascertained that the second Member State has granted long-term mobility to that EU Blue Card holder.

However, this shall not prevent the first Member State from withdrawing the Blue Card if the conditions of Article 7 are fulfilled.

2. [Provision moved under Article 21(1)]

3. Where the second Member State rejects the application for an EU Blue Card in accordance with point (b) of Article 20(8), the first Member State shall, upon the request of the second Member State, allow re-entry of the EU Blue Card holder and, where applicable, his family members, without formalities and without delay. This shall also apply if the EU Blue Card issued by the first Member State has expired or has been withdrawn during the examination of the application. [...]

4. The EU Blue Card holder or his **or her** employer in the second Member State may be held responsible for the costs related to the re-entry of the EU Blue Card holder and his **or her** family members referred to in paragraph [...] 3.

5. Member States may [...] provide for the imposition of sanctions in accordance with Article 7a on the employer of the EU Blue Card holder who is responsible for the failure to comply with the conditions of mobility laid down in this Chapter.

6. Where a Member State withdraws or does not renew an EU Blue Card which contains the remark referred to Article 8(5) and decides to expel the third-country national, it shall request the Member State mentioned in that remark to confirm whether the person concerned is still a beneficiary of international protection in that Member State. The Member State mentioned in the remark shall reply within one month after receiving the request for information.

Where the third-country national is still a beneficiary of international protection in the Member State mentioned in the remark, that person shall be expelled to that Member State, which shall, without prejudice to the applicable Union or national law and to the principle of family unity, immediately allow the re-entry, without formalities, of that beneficiary and his or her family members.

By way of derogation from the second subparagraph, the Member State which adopted the expulsion decision shall retain the right to remove, in accordance with its international obligations, the third-country national to a country other than the Member State which granted international protection, where that person fulfils the conditions specified in Article 21(2) of Directive 2011/95/EU.

7. Where the EU Blue Card holder or his or her family members cross the external border of a Member State applying the Schengen acquis in full, that Member State shall, **in accordance with the Schengen Borders Code**, consult the Schengen information system. That Member State shall refuse entry for persons for whom an alert for the purposes of refusing entry and stay has been issued in the Schengen information system.

Chapter VI: Final provisions

Article 23: Access to information and monitoring

1. Member States shall make easily accessible to applicants the information on all the documentary evidence needed for an application and information on entry and residence conditions, including the rights, obligations and procedural safeguards, of the third-country nationals falling under the scope of this Directive and of their family members. This information shall include information on the salary thresholds set in the Member State concerned in accordance with Article 5(2), (4) and (5), and on the applicable fees.

This information shall also include information:

- (a) on business activities allowed in the territory of the Member State concerned to an EU Blue Card holder from another Member State as referred to in Article 19;
- (b) on the procedures applicable to obtaining an EU Blue Card as well as residence permits for family members, in a second Member State, as referred to in Article 20 and 21.

In the case where Member States decide to introduce legislative or regulatory measures in accordance with Article 5a or make use of the possibility provided for by Article [6(3)(a)], this information shall be communicated in the same way. The information on check of the labour market situation pursuant to Article 6(3)(a) shall specify, where appropriate, the sectors, occupations and regions concerned.

1a. Where Member States issue national residence permits for the purpose of highly qualified employment, they shall ensure the same access to information on the EU Blue Card as on the national residence permits.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission [...] upon each modification, **but at least once per year**:

- a) [...] the factor they have decided to set for determining the annual salary thresholds, and the resulting nominal amounts, in accordance with paragraph 2 or, where applicable, paragraphs 2a, 4 or 5 of Article 5;

- b) [...] the list of the professions for which a derogation in accordance with Article 5(4) applies and, where applicable, the justification for a derogation in accordance with Article 5(2a);
- c) [...] the list of allowed business activities, as meant in Article 2(1), for the application of Article 19;
- d) information on legislative or regulatory measures in accordance with Article 5a, where applicable;
- e) information on a check of the labour market situation provided for by [Article 6(3)(a)], where applicable.

Where Member States refuse applications for an EU Blue Card based on ethical recruitment considerations in accordance with Article 6(3)(cb), they shall communicate **and justify** to the Commission and to the other Member States **each year** [...] the countries and [...] professions concerned. **Member States shall inform the Commission of agreements with third countries concluded in accordance with Article 6(3)(cb)**

Article 24: Statistics

1. Annually, and for the first time by [*Four years after the date of entry into force of this Directive*] at the latest, Member States shall, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 862/2007, communicate to the Commission statistics on the numbers of third-country nationals who have been granted an EU Blue Card and on those whose applications have been rejected, specifying those rejected in application of Article 5a or 6(3)(a), **on applications considered inadmissible on grounds of Article 5a**, as well as on the numbers of third-country nationals whose EU Blue Card has been renewed or withdrawn, during the previous calendar year. Those statistics shall be disaggregated by the citizenship, **sex and age of the applicants and, [...] where available, by length of validity of the permits**, occupation, **size of the employer's undertaking** and economic sector. Those statistics for third-country nationals who have been granted an EU Blue Card shall be further disaggregated into beneficiaries of international protection, beneficiaries of the right to free movement and those who have acquired EU long-term resident status in accordance with Article 17.

Statistics on admitted family members shall be communicated in the same manner, except as regards information on their occupation and the economic sector.

For EU Blue Card holders, and members of their families, who have been granted residence permits in a second Member State in accordance with Articles 20 and 21, the information provided shall, in addition, specify the Member State of previous residence.

2. For the purpose of the implementation of paragraphs Article 5(2), (4) and (5), reference shall be made to data [...] **provided by Member States** to Eurostat in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013³⁵ **and, where appropriate, national data.**

Article 24a: List of occupations in the Annex

1. The occupations for which knowledge, skills and competences attested by professional experience of a level comparable to higher education qualifications and of a specified duration, which is relevant in the profession or sector specified in the work contract or binding job offer, fall within the scope of higher professional qualifications, shall be listed in the Annex to this Directive.

2. Every three years, and for the first time no later than [three years after the entry into force of the Directive], the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on its assessment of the list of occupations in the Annex, in view of the changing needs of the labour market. This report shall be drawn up after consulting national authorities and on the basis of a public consultation which shall include social partners. On the basis of the report, if appropriate, the Commission may submit legislative proposals for the amendment of the Annex.

Article 25: Reporting

Every three years, and for the first time by [*five years after the date of entry into force of this Directive*], the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Directive in the Member States.

This report shall, in particular, assess the impact of Articles 5, 12 [...] **and Chapter V**, and the impact of this Directive on the national labour market situations.

The Commission shall also assess the operation of Article 2, point i), and examine the relevance of occupations beyond those listed in the Annex, where professional experience that may justifiably be considered equivalent to formal educational qualifications for the purpose of this Directive, could be taken into account as a criterion for deciding on an application for a Blue Card.

The Commission shall propose any amendments that are necessary.

The Commission shall notably assess the relevance of the salary threshold set out in Article 5 and of the derogations provided for in that Article, taking into account, among others, the diversity of the economical, sectorial and geographical situations and the labour market impact within the Member States.

Article 26: Cooperation between contact points

1. Member States shall appoint contact points which shall be responsible for receiving and transmitting the information needed to implement Articles 17, 19, 20 and 23 and shall cooperate effectively with each other.

2. The Member States' contact points shall in particular cooperate effectively regarding validation arrangements with stakeholders in the education, training, employment and youth sectors, as well as other relevant policy areas, needed to implement Articles 5(1)(c) [...].

3. Member States shall provide appropriate cooperation in the exchange of the information and documentation referred to in paragraph 1. Member States shall give preference to exchanging information via electronic means.

In Article 2 of Directive (EU) 2016/801, point (g) is replaced by the following:

"(g) who apply to reside in a Member State for the purpose of highly skilled employment within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2017/...*+.

*** Directive (EU) .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment (OJ L ..., p. ...)."**

+ OJ: Please insert in the text the number of the Directive contained in document under interinstitutional code (2016/0176(COD)) and insert the number, name, date and OJ reference of that Directive in the footnote.

Article 27: Repeal of Directive 2009/50/EC

Directive 2009/50/EC is repealed with effect from ... [two years+1 day after the date of entry into force of this Directive].

References to the repealed Directive shall be construed as references to this Directive and shall be read in accordance with the correlation tables in Annex [].

Article 28: Transposition

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by [Two years after the date of entry into force of this Directive]. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

When Member States adopt those provisions, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or shall be accompanied by such reference on the occasion of their official publication. Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.

Article 29: Entry into force

This Directive shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 30: Addressees

This Directive is addressed to the Member States, in accordance with the Treaties.

Done at Strasbourg,

For the European Parliament

The president

For the Council

The President