

area on 1st February, the next six month period starts on 1st August. If you often travel to the Schengen area you are responsible for counting what the remaining number of days is within the six month period.

Hence, you may undertake several short term trips, provided that their duration does not exceed 90 days in total within a 6 months period.

## Can I live and work in Schengen countries under the new rules?

The new rules apply to travel only. They do not grant citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the right to reside for more than 3 months or take up employment in the countries covered.

Please note that if you intend to stay longer than three months, to take up an employment or undertake studies exceeding 90 days, you must apply for a long term visa, residence or working permit at the Embassy or Consulate of the country which is your destination before undertaking your travel.

Working or living in the Schengen area without the relevant national residence or working permit is illegal.

## Are there any other requirements for entry into the countries concerned?

There are no extra financial or administrative requirements for biometric passport holders to fulfil in order to travel freely to the Schengen countries. However, the normal entry conditions for all third country nationals travelling to the Schengen area apply.

At the border, travellers may thus be asked to demonstrate the means of their travel and show means of subsistence during their stay in the Schengen area. Travellers can also be asked to specify the place where they will stay (e.g. to show a hotel reservation or address at which they will be staying).



In addition, the persons must not be considered to be a threat to public order, public health or internal security and they must not be persons for whom an alert has been issued for the purpose of refusing entry. The Member State border authorities have the right to refuse entry if these requirements are not met and have the final decision on entry (Article 5 of the Schengen Convention).

A special procedure will apply at the border with Greece. The Greek authorities will not put entry or exit stamps in passports issued by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Instead, the Greek authorities will proceed by stamping a separate sheet that will be given to the traveller.

## Recommendations to Travellers

- Travel with reliable travel agencies.
- Check if you need to obtain health insurance and under which conditions (document/confirmation from the main health office). Taking out health insurance is recommended.
- If driving to the Schengen area, visitors must have a valid international driving license and international car insurance (green card).
- If travelling under private arrangements, check the address, town, telephone and name of hotel or other accommodation in the Schengen countries on an Internet browser.

Please note that the European emergency number is 112 and is applicable in all EU countries (for police, ambulance or the fire department).

For any additional information visit our website: <http://www.delmkd.ec.europa.eu/> or contact the Embassy or Consulate of the country which is your destination.

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# Visa-free travel for citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



## Visa-free travel has arrived for citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Beginning on 19 December 2009, citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia no longer need to be in possession of a visa to travel to 25 of the EU member states and 3 non-EU countries that are part of the Schengen area. Those citizens who hold a biometric passport can now travel freely for short-term trips up to 90 days every six months to these countries, be it for business, study or tourism purposes.

## To which countries can you now travel without a visa?

The new rules apply to all EU member states except the UK and Ireland, as well as to Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

### List of countries

<i>Austria</i>	<i>Finland</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Romania</i>
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Luxembourg</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>
<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>Spain</i>
<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Iceland</i>	<i>Norway</i>	<i>Sweden</i>
<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Switzerland</i>



## Why are the UK and Ireland excluded?

The UK and Ireland remain outside the Schengen area and as such the new rules do not apply to them. For information on entry requirements to these two countries for citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, please contact the British or Irish Visa Offices.

## How do I know if my passport is biometric?

Biometric passports have been issued in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since April 2007. Check whether your passport has this symbol on the front.



If it does, it is biometric and you will be able to travel on it without a visa to the countries in question.

## How do I obtain a biometric passport if I don't already have one?

If you do not yet have a biometric passport, you will need to obtain one from the passport issuing authorities in order to be able to travel to the countries concerned without a visa.



## Can I still travel on my old non-biometric passport?

As non-biometric passports do not qualify for visa free travel, you will be able to travel only if you have a valid Schengen visa. For further information please contact your country's authorities or the Consular representations of the Schengen countries.

## How long can travellers stay in the Schengen area under the new rules?

Under the new rules, passport holders from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia can remain in the Schengen area (all EU Member States except the UK and Ireland and the countries associated to the Schengen area: Switzerland, Norway and Iceland) for a maximum period of 90 days from the date of entry within a period of six months (180 days). The period starts when you enter the territory for the first time within a six month period. For example, if you first enter the Schengen