

Explanatory instructions on the deviation from the rule of restriction of entry of non EU/EEA nationals at any air, land and sea Border Crossing Point on the ground of exceptional professional or personal reasons

The Joint Ministerial Decision No. D1a/GP.oik. 19030, dated 17.03.2020, published on the Official Government Gazette of the Hellenic Republic, provides temporary restriction of entry to the territory of Greece until 18.04.2020 at any air, land and sea Border Crossing Point for ALL non EU/EEA nationals, regardless if they are citizens subject to a visa requirement, as a measure to mitigate the spreading of the COVID-19 virus.

However, in par. 5 of the above mentioned Decision, it is provided that non EU/EEA nationals subject to the general restriction of entrance have the right to enter for exceptional professional or personal reasons under the following conditions:

1. An application must be submitted to the competent Greek Consular Authority, were the citizen is legally present (regardless if there is a visa requirement for his travel document in order to enter to the Schengen area).
2. The application must be accompanied by the following:
 - For “professional reasons” a letter of the Greek or foreign company explaining the necessity of the trip (i.e. signing or executing a contract or implementation of contractual obligations, serious business reasons that cannot be postponed etc).
 - For “personal reasons” concerning close family members (1st degree relatives), the applicant must provide documents demonstrating “serious and unprecedented event” (such as grave illness or death).
3. In addition, the application should include, the exact arrival date and time, point of entry, mean of transportation.
This application will be assessed by the Consular Authority and sent to the Border Control Authority and the Hellenic Police Headquarters, Border Protection Division.

The 14 day home quarantine, applies in any case.