

Brussels, July 13, 2015



The European Council of Doctoral  
Candidates and Junior Researchers

***Eurodoc recommendations on the entry and residence of third-country nationals for  
the purpose of research***

*Towards a more adequate framework*

Facing fundamental demographic and economic challenges, the European Union institutions recognize the need to attract talented researchers and innovators from outside the EU<sup>1</sup>. As experience has showed that the existing student directive ([2004/114](#)) and researcher directive ([2005/71](#)) for these groups do not suffice to achieve the set aims, the European Commission has made a [new proposal](#) to improve the conditions of entry and residence of third-country national researchers, students, pupils, volunteers and unpaid trainees.

As the proposal is currently under discussion in trilogue negotiations between the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of European Union<sup>2</sup>, Eurodoc urges all negotiating parties to keep in mind the initial objectives, and to agree on an ambitious final text that will *de facto* improve the situation of doctoral candidates and junior researchers.

Therefore, Eurodoc recommends :

1. To clarify the situation of Early Stage Researchers, by defining doctoral candidates as researchers only in article 3<sup>3</sup>
2. To guarantee adequate and stable working conditions
3. To provide non-discriminatory treatment to third-country nationals in
  - a) recruitment procedures
  - b) access to intra-EU mobility

More information can be found in the Eurodoc policy papers:

- [Recommendations for admitting non-EU researchers \(2010\)](#)
- Eurodoc Recommendations on the entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of research (*to be published on 21/07/2015*)

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<sup>1</sup> See for example this [press release](#) by the European Commission and the [website of the European Council and Council of the European Union](#).

<sup>2</sup> The proposal of the Council of the European Union can be found by clicking on [this link](#).

<sup>3</sup> In the proposed article 3 doctoral candidates can be categorized both as « Researchers » (3.b) and as « Students » (3.c), which leads to ambiguity.