



NEW MEASURES ON THE ENTRY OF WORKERS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY

The Philippine Embassy in Rome had reported that the government of Italy was considering the following main channels through which foreign nationals who are outside the European Union can legally enter and work in Italy:

- The first channel is for qualified professionals, such as doctors and engineers, who are hired by Italian firms and institutions.
- The second channel is for those who want to go to Italy to work as babysitters and manual laborers. These people would have to apply at Italian Diplomatic Missions abroad before they leave for Italy.

The proposed measure was reportedly still under discussion by the legislative bodies of Italy. Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, who won the elections in early 2006, proposed the two-channel approach in amending the current immigration law because he believed that it reflected the reality of thousands of immigrants working illegally in Italy.

The proposed legislation seeks to amend a key provision of the existing Bossi-Fini Law approved in 2002 that required an applicant to have a work contract before a residency permit is issued. This law adopted the Direct Hire System wherein the employer shall identify the worker in the application for Nulla Osta (No Objection) from the Italian Ministry of Labor. The Nulla Osta is the basis for the issuance of the work visa by the Italian Embassy. The Bossi-Fini law also imposed an annual quota on foreign workers and allowed the expulsion of undocumented workers.

Source: Philippine Embassy Rome
September 2006