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THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT EXTINGUISHES SEF AND CREATES SEA – IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM SERVICE

The Government has extinguished SEF – Immigration and Border's Service but this does not affect golden visa applications as well as other types of residency applications.

The Government's Resolution which executes this decision has been published on Wednesday, April 14. The new denomination – SEA – will not be applied this week because the extinction of SEF will be determined in the future by Decree-Law.

This decision determines the end of SEF and the creation of SEA – Immigration and Asylum Service which will replace SEF. The main difference from the previous scenario is the separation between policing duties and the relationship with migrants.

SEF's powers will be distributed to different authorities: GNR – National Guard will be in charge of patrolling the marine and land borders; PSP – Public Safety Police will be in charge of the airport border ant cruise terminals; PJ – Judiciary Police will investigate crimes related to illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings.

SEA will have administrative duties such as the implementation of policies in migratory matters, in the areas of documentation, database management, relationship and cooperation with other institutions and external representation, namely within the scope of the Schengen Area and with European agencies.

The Institute of Registries and Notaries will be responsible for the issuance of passports and renewal of residence permits.

Within the scope of the 3rd phase of lifting restrictions which started on April 19, SEF has reopened and began accepting new appointments for late August and September 2021.

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