



The Immigration Brief

By HLG | 18 December 2025

New Doors Open: U.S. Gold Card and Dutch Startup Visa

Dear valued clients and partners,

Welcome to this year's final issue of The Immigration Brief, Harvey Law Group's revamped monthly newsletter.

With the holiday season just around the corner, this is a ripe moment to pause, take stock of a momentous year in immigration, and look ahead to the opportunities and challenges that await in 2026.

The formal launch of the [Trump Gold Card](#) program, a new fast-track pathway to U.S. permanent residency based on a substantial financial gift rather than a traditional investment structure, has been one of the most consequential developments this year.

While headlines tend to focus on the contribution amounts, the real measure of success will be preparation: assembling robust source-of-funds documentation, choosing the right [EB-1](#) or [EB-2 NIW](#) category, and understanding how quota backlogs may affect timelines for different nationalities.

Our team has been closely analysing this emerging framework and shares practical insights in this issue.

At the same time, Europe continues to evolve beyond classical “golden visa” models. HLG is pleased to highlight our new offering under the [Dutch Startup Visa](#), which provides qualified non-EU founders and their families with a pragmatic route into the EU through innovative entrepreneurship rather than passive capital.

Across all of these developments, a common thread runs through our advice: strategy and timing matter more than ever. Early planning and coordinated professional support

will be essential to avoid bottlenecks and capture the best available options this coming year.

On behalf of everyone at Harvey Law Group, thank you for your trust and engagement throughout the year. We look forward to supporting your immigration and business goals in 2026 and beyond.



— Jean-François Harvey
HLG Global Managing Partner

[Schedule a confidential consultation](#) with our [team](#) to discuss how these developments affect your plans and identify the most suitable residency or citizenship options for you and your family.

HLG INSIGHTS

Our Latest Expert Guides

Trump Gold Card: What You Must Prepare Before Applying

[Read here](#)

High-net-worth individuals seeking U.S. permanent residence through the \$1 million gift pathway now face a critical preparation window. The program's launch means applicants should begin assembling comprehensive financial documentation immediately, as source of funds verification will determine which petitions move ahead for further adjudication. Learn more about confirmed requirements, the application timeline, and specific actions prospective applicants should take.

Top 16 Countries To Get Citizenship Next Year

[Read here](#)

Looking for the easiest paths to citizenship in 2026? From fast Caribbean CBI approvals to EU citizenship by descent, securing a second passport is now simpler - and more strategic - than ever. This guide breaks down the quickest routes, key timelines, and the programs offering the strongest mobility and family benefits.

Netherlands Startup Visa: Complete Guide To Dutch Residency For Entrepreneurs

[Read here](#)

With startup visa approvals now reaching 90%, more global entrepreneurs are choosing the Netherlands as their launchpad into the EU. Read our complete guide to this

program offering a streamlined and fast process, family inclusion, and a vibrant business ecosystem powered by thousands of cutting-edge startups.

HLG In The Media



Trump Gold Card Goes Live As Applicants Face Critical Preparation Window (*AP News*)

- The Trump Gold Card program is now operational and accepting applications online from qualifying high net worth individuals and corporate sponsors. HNWI's seeking U.S. permanent residency through the USD 1 million gift pathway now face a critical preparation window.



Netherlands Upgrades Its Startup Regime As Visa Approvals Hit 90% (*AP News*)

- More and more entrepreneurs from around the world are making use of the country's business-friendly policies and access to the EU via its Startup Visa program that grants a one-year residence permit to establish an innovative business in partnership with a government-approved facilitator.



"Lost Canadians" in The U.S. and Worldwide Find Their Path to Canadian Citizenship As Bill C-3 Takes Effect (*AP News*)

- Canada has approved a landmark change to rules governing citizenship by descent by passing Bill C-3, legislation that restores and extends citizenship by ancestry for "Lost Canadians" and future generations born abroad.

NEWS DIGEST

Immigration Around The World

AFRICA

- Trump freezes all immigration applications from 19 countries (*CBS News*)

- Sierra Leone expands citizenship-by-investment program to extended families and business partners ([*IFC Review*](#))

AMERICAS

- USCIS orders review of Biden-era refugees and halts corresponding Green Card processing ([*Reuters*](#))
- US Supreme Court agrees to hear case challenging birthright citizenship ([*BBC*](#))
- Canada releases 2026-2028 Immigration Levels Plan ([*Government of Canada*](#))
- Canada issues 2026 provincial and territorial allocations under the international student caplains ([*Government of Canada*](#))
- Canada reaches important milestone in restoring fairness and clarity to citizenship by descent ([*Government of Canada*](#))

ASIA & OCEANIA

- India-China visa regime now "fully functional" ([*Government of India*](#))
- Australia updates National Innovation Visa framework ([*Government of Australia*](#))
- New Zealand launches two new seasonal visas under the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) framework ([*Government of New Zealand*](#))

EUROPE & UK

- EU countries agree positions on new asylum, migrant returns policy ([*Reuters*](#))
- EU Council green-lights new rules for the suspension of visa-free travel for third countries ([*Consilium*](#))
- UK proposes longer qualifying periods for settlement as part of immigration reforms ([*UK Parliament*](#))
- Why immigration policy is hard - A guide to breaking out of the 'infernal circle' ([*Financial Times*](#))

MIDDLE EAST

- UAE tightens auditing of green residency freelance visas to reduce misuse ([*VisaHQ*](#))

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