



The Immigration Brief: EB-2 NIW

By HLG | 12 February 2026

New year, new challenges - but some light at the end of the tunnel

Dear valued clients and partners,

Welcome to this year's first issue of the EB-2 NIW Immigration Brief, Harvey Law Group's program-specific newsletter. Before we dive in, I'd like to invite you to look at the news digest below this introduction.

I am glad to report that the new year started on a positive note as we have been seeing encouraging signs of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) returning to a reasonable approach in its decision-making.

It is perhaps an indication that the organization reached its limit when it comes to forgetting its own historical mission. In other words, there is a limit to refusing petitions just for the sake of refusing them, as we have seen - not only for NIW cases, but for the whole spectrum of visas and PERM.

Also on the positive side, so far it seems that the Trump Gold Card is not taking off, therefore its impact on the number of available visas should be minimal. Meanwhile, the very same gold card is now being contested in court.

While this positive "vibe" was felt, US consulates and embassies around the world had to quickly adapt to a new reality when the administration of President Donald Trump suspended the issuance of immigrant visas for nationals of 75 countries - starting January 21 and without a specified end date.

Among the targeted nationalities are key emerging markets and popular migration hubs, including Thailand and several nations in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean.

This freeze affected many pilots who were about to receive their visa, and potentially carries further significant implications (prolonged uncertainty, delays, or profound changes) for certain immigration strategies that rely on U.S. permanent residence as an endpoint.

However, a host of solutions is available. The suspension's text mentions that an individual is still able to use another passport not targeted by the ban, underscoring the importance of a second citizenship and opening the door to new opportunities.

Some of our clients are now exploring their roots as they consider [citizenship by ancestry](#) to obtain new citizenship (and the consequent passport). Others are turning their attention to [citizenship by investment](#) programs, notably to the very affordable Nauru's program.

The [Nauru Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship \(ECRC\) Program](#) offers the opportunity to obtain citizenship against a contribution of USD 90,000 to their climate resilience funds.

Whatever the rest of this year has in store for us, we stand ready to support your immigration and career goals in the face of constantly evolving rules and regulations.

I must admit that the Trump administration is keeping us on our toes which, as lawyers, we tend to enjoy, believe it or not...

On this, my best regards and my best wishes for those of you that celebrate the Lunar New Year.

— Jean-François Harvey
HLG Global Managing Partner

NEWS DIGEST

The Latest Updates on EB-2 NIW

PILOTS

- U.S. airlines still struggling to fill cockpits ([LiveAndLetsFly](#))
- U.S. pilot shortage continues despite down cycle ([Aviationa2Z](#))
- The real reasons airlines are struggling to hire pilots ([Simple Flying](#))
- Analysts break down pilot shortage numbers ([Acron Aviation Academy](#))
- Spirit Airlines scraps pilot furlough plan ([Reuters](#))
- International pilots grounded at 65: What it means for travellers ([ABC News](#))
- ICAO rejects IATA's bid to raise pilot retirement age ([Simple Flying](#))

ENGINEERS

- U.S. technician pipeline still short on demand ([ARSA.org](#))
- Aviation mechanic shortage could rise by 2025 ([E3 Aviation Association.com](#))
- IATA extends jet engine maintenance pact to 2033 amid labor pressure ([Reuters](#))

- Youth aviation program seeking to fill labor shortage gaps ([MyNews13](#))
- This airplane mechanic job market is hot - become a plane mechanic ([Colorado Sun](#))
- Boeing set to relocate 787 engineering work to South Carolina as production ramps up ([Simple Flying](#))

FAA

- Dangerous game: Unions warn shutdowns risk aviation safety ([Flying Magazine](#))
- FAA moves to codify existing DCA helicopter restrictions into law ([The Air Current](#))
- FAA administrator Bryan Bedford unveils new agency structure to enhance safety, embrace innovation & increase transparency ([FAA](#))
- FAA \$12B budget passes as government ends partial shutdown ([AIN Online](#))
- FAA mandates 25-hour cockpit voice recorders for new aircraft in the U.S. ([Aerotime](#))
- Public engagement for the modernization of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Part 141 Pilot Schools ([FAA](#))

MISCELLANEOUS

- Supply chain chaos becomes aviation's "new norm" ([Reuters](#))
- Dangerous game: Unions warn shutdowns risk aviation safety ([Flying Magazine](#))

HLG IN THE MEDIA



Interview with HLG founder & managing partner Jean-François Harvey ([Featured.com](#))

- Jean-François Harvey spoke about his path into investment immigration, the strategies behind effective cross-border mobility, and the challenges ahead.



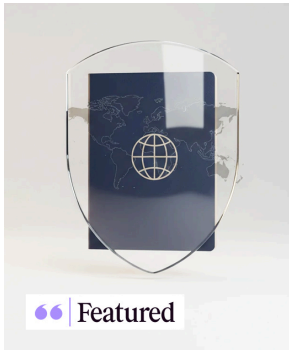
Nauru Temporarily Slashes Citizenship-by-Investment Contributions Amid Global Immigration Turmoil ([National Law Review](#))

- The Republic of Nauru announced an overhaul of its flagship Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship (ECRC) Program, including a new "Special Project" with a reduced donation requirement for a limited time.



Why Immigration Strategy Should Be A C-Suite Priority (*Forbes*)

- Amid turbulence in the immigration world, specialized legal counsel is no longer a “nice to have.” It becomes crucial to managing risk, capital and talent across borders.



2026 Investment Immigration Playbook: De-risking Second Citizenship (*Featured.com*)

- If you think investment immigration today is about collecting passports as a hobby or niche curiosity, think again. In 2026, perhaps more than ever, residency and citizenship by investment (RCBI) should be at the heart of a resilient risk-management strategy for your family and your capital.



U.S. suspends immigration visas for 75 countries, sending ripple effects across investment immigration strategies (*AP News*)

- The suspension affects applicants for permanent residence (immigrant visas), while non-immigrant categories such as short-term tourist or business visas are not covered by the current measure. However, it potentially carries significant implications for investment immigration strategies that rely on U.S. permanent residence as an endpoint.

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