

Exceptions to the visa requirement for persons with refugee status and stateless persons

Persons with refugee status, stateless persons and other persons without any nationality are exempted from the visa requirement if they are in possession of a valid travel document¹ issued by one of the following states:

1. Belgium	11. Croatia	21. Portugal
2. Cyprus	12. Latvia	22. Slovakia
3. Denmark	13. Liechtenstein	23. Slovenia
4. Germany	14. Lithuania	24. Spain
5. Estonia	15. Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	25. Czech Republic
6. Finland	16. Malta	26. Iceland
7. France	17. Netherlands	27. Sweden
8. Greece	18. Norway	28. Switzerland
9. Hungary	19. Austria	29. Bulgaria > See note below
10. Italy	20. Poland	30. Romania > See note below
		31. Ireland > See note below

Notes

- Bulgaria: On the other hand, holders of a travel document as "Subsidiary protection (=Passport of Subsidiary Protection Beneficiary)" issued by Bulgaria are subject to the visa requirement type C for Schengen when the person has a visa required nationality
- Romania: On the other hand, holders of a travel document as "Subsidiary protection (=Protectie subsidiara)" issued by Romania are subject to the visa requirement type C for Schengen when the person has a visa required nationality
- Ireland: the visa exemption for Belgium only applies to Refugees who reside in Ireland with biometric passports. It is not applicable to Stateless persons residing in Ireland. For more information, consult the document 'national derogations of the visa requirement' website of the EU https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/apply_for_a_visa_en, more specifically subpage 2.2.4
- Ireland: please note that the travel document "Family member of a recognised refugee 1951 UN convention" does not have any visa free value either.

Clarification difference between Refugees and persons who are Subsidiary Protection Beneficiary)

- Recognised refugees must travel with a travel document issued by one of the above mentioned States. They cannot travel on the basis of a travel document issued by their country of origin.
- Beneficiaries of subsidiary protection status keep their national travel document of the country of origin. They can travel visa-free if, in addition to this national travel document, they are in possession of a residence card listed in the section "Visa-free documents" of this website.

¹ To verify whether a travel document is recognized, consult http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/index_en.htm

