

Appeal about the expansion of small border traffic regime all over the Carpathian Euroregion area

The promotion of principles of European democracy, expansion of the contacts between citizens of different countries demands removal of barriers and simplify the procedures of crossing borders, especially for citizens who live in border areas and related family and economic relationships.

As practice experience, at the time when Ukraine has established visa-free regime of crossing the border for EU countries, the gradual elimination of interstate barriers would facilitate the introduction of so-called local or simplified border traffic crossing the border along its perimeter with the European Union. At present time the Intergovernmental Agreements on local border traffic rules extended to border areas between Ukraine and Hungary, Ukraine and Slovak Republic as well as between Ukraine and Poland, and they demonstrated their effectiveness. Besides, related Agreement on local border traffic between Ukraine and Romania is under preparation.

Experience of the efficiency of the above-mentioned agreements showed that the most appropriate model for border citizens is the Ukrainian-Hungarian model. This Agreement on rules of local border traffic between Ukraine and Hungary signed on the 18th September 2007. Its foundations are laid in the EU Council Decree № 1931/2006 «On the determination of rules of local border traffic at external borders of the countries - EU members and about the changes of orders of the Schengen Agreement. According to the above-mentioned Agreement the Hungarian side gives the permissions for crossing the Ukrainian-Hungarian border according to the mode of local border traffic for a period of one to five years for Ukrainian citizens that living inside the 50-kilometer zone of the defined border in Ukraine during three or more years. These permissions allow Ukrainian citizens to stay on the defined territory continuously for up to 90 days during 6 months.

Hungarian model is very effective mechanism for development of good neighbour relations, that promotes ethnic, ethnic, interfaith and intercultural communication for citizens living near the Hungarian-Ukrainian border, and it provides the expansion of the cross-border cooperation in the various fields of activity.

Therefore we, the leaders of the self-governments in border regions that are members of the Interregional Association "Carpathian Euroregion, appeal to the governments of Ukraine, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Romania as follows:

- to accelerate the preparation of the Agreement on small border movement between Ukraine and Romania;
- to introduce the experience and procedures for local border traffic between Ukraine and Hungary;

- to extend the regime of local border traffic all over the territories of Ukraine that are included into the Carpathian Euroregion area with recognizing the permission for simplified crossing border that issued by any consulate from the Carpathian Euroregion area at the territories of other regions of other countries that included into the Carpathian Euroregion.

Approved in Ukrainian and English, dated 8th September 2010, in Uzhgorod, Ukraine.