

‘Safe country of origin’ concept in EU+ countries

Background

In the context of the European Union (EU) asylum *acquis*, the notion of a ‘**safe country of origin**’ (SCO), as described in the recast Asylum Procedures Directive is based on the presumption that certain countries can be designated under specific circumstances as generally safe for their nationals or stateless persons who were formerly habitual residents in that country.

The safe country of origin concept is analytically defined in Articles 36 -37. A country is considered as a SCO when, with regard to a legal basis the application of the law within a democratic system and the general political circumstances, it can be shown that there is generally and consistently no persecution as defined in the Qualification Directive, no torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and no threat by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict. It can be used during the accelerated procedure according to Article 31(8) and/or conducted at the border or in transit zones in accordance with Article 43.

In line with Article 37, the designation of a safe country of origin falls within national competences. The criteria for considering a country as safe are set out in Annex I and Member States applying the concept have to incorporate the criteria in their national legislation, at least by referring to Annex I of the recast Asylum Procedures Directive.

This Situational Update provides a comprehensive overview of the implementation of the safe country of origin concept based on the lists which have been adopted in EU+ countries. The lists are presented in Annex II with references to the relevant legal acts.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ 22 EU+ countries have adopted SCO lists
- ✓ Sweden adopted a SCO list in May 2021
- ✓ 61 countries in total are included in SCO lists
- ✓ With the exception of Turkey, all EU candidate and potential candidate countries are in the Top 5 national SCO lists

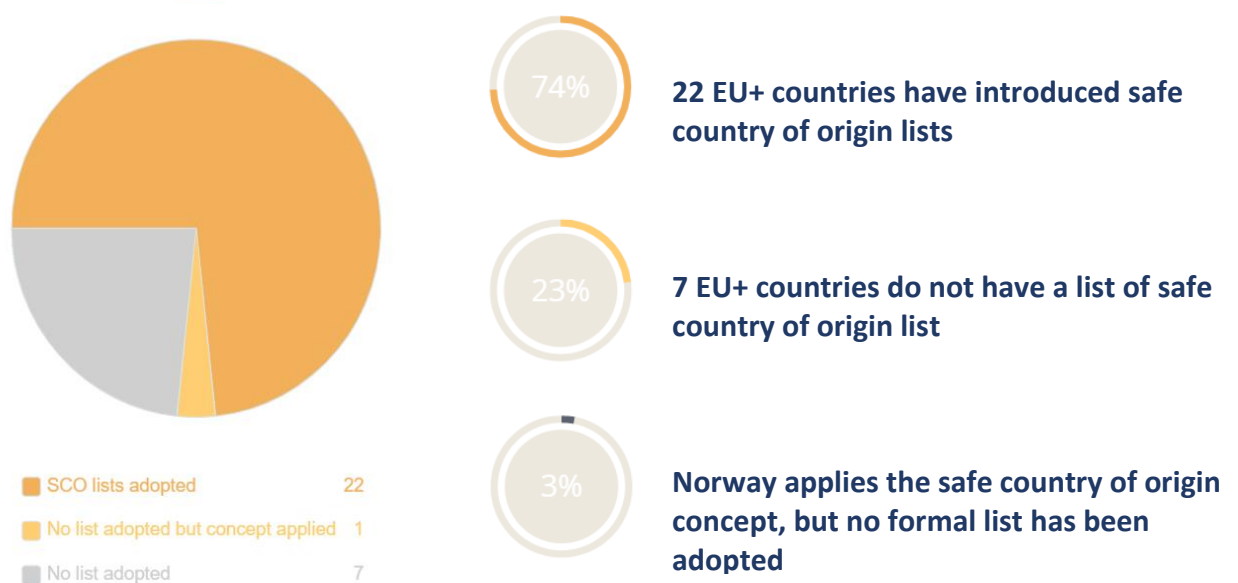
KEY FINDINGS

EU+ countries with safe country of origin lists

EU+ countries which are bound by the recast Asylum Procedures Directive are allowed, but not obliged, to create a national list of safe countries of origin based on national regulations and procedures. To date, 22 EU+ countries have adopted lists of safe countries of origin, namely:

Austria	Denmark	Greece	Luxembourg	Sweden
Belgium	Estonia	Hungary	Malta	Switzerland
Croatia	Finland	Iceland	Netherlands	
Cyprus	France	Ireland	Slovakia	
Czechia	Germany	Italy	Slovenia	

Figure 1: Share of EU+ countries with safe country of origin lists



In contrast, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain do not have safe country of origin lists. Norway, which does not have a fixed list, applies the safe country of origin concept on a case-by-case basis.

Historically, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta and Slovakia were among the first countries to introduce safe country of origin lists in mid-2000. Cyprus and Sweden adopted their first lists in May 2020 and May 2021, respectively, with Cyprus reviewing its list already in May 2021.

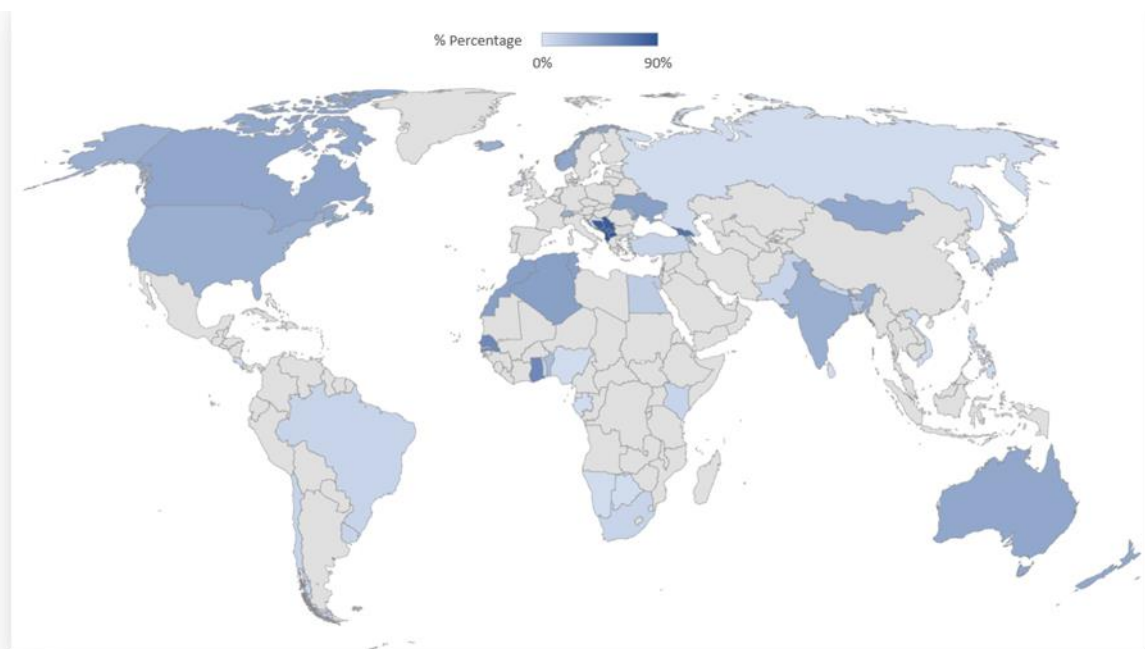
Safe countries of origin: Towards convergence?

The existing legal framework does not provide for a common EU list of safe countries of origin. However, the European Commission submitted a [Proposal for a Regulation establishing an EU common list of safe countries of origin for the purposes of Directive 2013/32/EU](#) in 2015 in an effort to “facilitate the use by all Member States of the procedures linked to the application of the safe country of origin concept and, thereby, to increase the overall efficiency of their asylum systems as concerns applications for international protection which are likely to be unfounded. An EU common list will also reduce the existing divergences between Member States’ national lists of safe countries of origin, thereby facilitating convergence in the procedures and deterring secondary movements of applicants for international protection”.¹

The EU Council did not reach an agreement on the European list of safe countries of origin as proposed by the European Commission. The Council also considered whether the proposed regulation should include a European list of safe third countries. In the new Pact on Migration and Asylum, the European Commission acknowledged again that “streamlined and harmonised rules related to safe countries of origin and safe third countries are also needed”.²

EU+ countries have listed 61 countries of origin as safe. A closer look at national lists shows the commonalities and differences across EU+ countries.

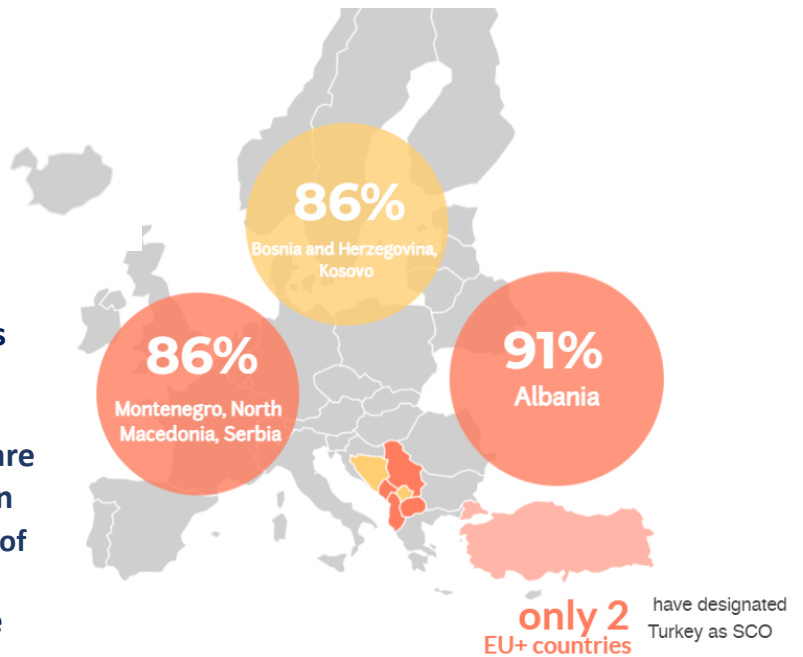
Figure 2: Countries of origin designated as safe



¹ [Proposal for a Regulation establishing an EU common list of safe countries of origin for the purposes of Directive 2013/32/EU](#), p. 3

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52020PC0611&from=en>

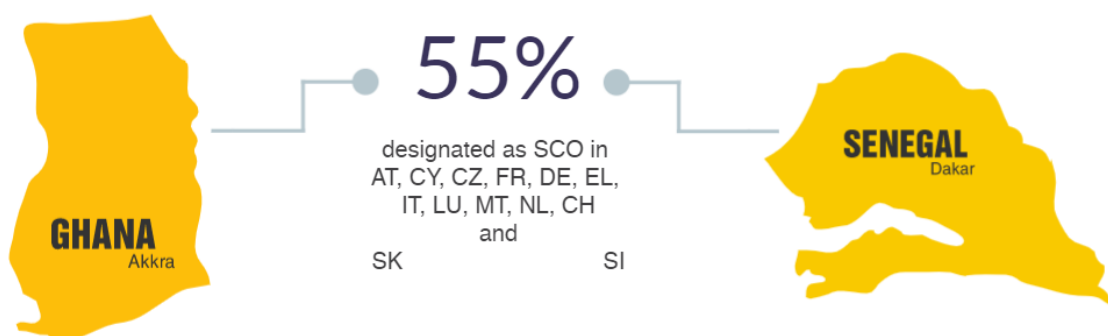
- ✓ EU candidate and potential candidate countries are in the Top 5 safe countries of origin on national lists
- ✓ **Albania** is designated as a safe country of origin in 20 EU+ countries (with the exception of Malta and Slovakia)
- ✓ **Bosnia-Herzegovina** and **Kosovo** are considered safe countries of origin in 19 EU+ countries (with the exception of Greece, Malta and Slovakia)
- ✓ Only **Croatia** and **Hungary** include **Turkey** in their safe country of origin lists



Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo,³ Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia are most commonly included in national safe country of origin lists. With the exception of Turkey, EU candidate and potential candidate countries⁴ are generally considered to be safe countries of origin. In contrast, only Croatia and Hungary have included Turkey in their national lists. Initially (2015), Hungary designated all EU candidate countries as safe with the exception of Turkey. In the current list, which was revised in 2016, no differentiation is made.

Georgia follows with 73% of EU+ countries (16 in total) including it in national lists (AT, BE, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, EL, IS, IE, LU, NL, SI, SE and CH).

About 55% of countries (12 countries in total) include Ghana and Senegal, the two African countries most commonly on safe country of origin lists.



The Top 10 most common safe countries of origin are completed with Algeria (on lists in AT,

³ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/candidates.htm>

HR, CY, CZ, EL, IT, MT, NL, SI).

A pattern is found with countries geographically close in proximity being on the same lists. For example, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia are designated as safe countries of origin by nine EU+ countries, namely Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Greece, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands and Slovenia.

41%

Algeria
Morocco
Tunisia
Ukraine

These three countries – together with Ukraine – appear in 41% of national lists for safe countries of origin.

Similarly, Australia, Canada and New Zealand are listed as safe countries of origin in the same nine national lists (AT, CZ, DK, FI, HU, IS, MT, NL and SK). This trend is also observed for EFTA countries with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland being include in lists in Austria, Czechia, Denmark, Hungary, Iceland,⁵ the Netherlands, Slovakia, as well as in Finland and Malta.⁶ With the exception of Austria, the United States is also designated as a safe country of origin in the preceding countries.

United in diversity

Countries which have the lowest designations (i.e. designated only once, representing 5%) in national lists of safe countries of origin are:

Andorra (NL)	Namibia (AT)	San Marino (NL)	Trinidad and Tobago (NL)
Botswana (MT)	Nigeria (CY)	Seychelles (SK)	Vietnam (CY)
Costa Rica (MT)	Philippines (CY)	South Korea (AT)	Vatican City (NL)
Gabon (MT)	Russia (DK)	Sri Lanka (CY)	

These designations relate to specific national lists mainly in Austria, Cyprus, the Netherlands and Malta.

This group of countries is followed by:

Brazil (MT, NL)	Jamaica (MT, NL)	Monaco (IS, NL)	South Africa (IE, SK)
Chile (MT, SE)	Kenya (CY, SK)	Nepal (CY, SI)	Togo (CY, EL)
Gambia (CY, EL)	Mauritius (FR, SK)	Pakistan (CY, EL)	Uruguay (AT, MT)

which are indicated as safe countries of origin in two EU+ countries (equal to 9%). It should be noted that Togo was added in the Cypriot list in 2021, while it was removed from the Dutch list in September 2020.

⁵ Iceland includes Norway and Switzerland in its national list.

⁶ Finland and Malta have designated Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, but not Iceland in their national lists.

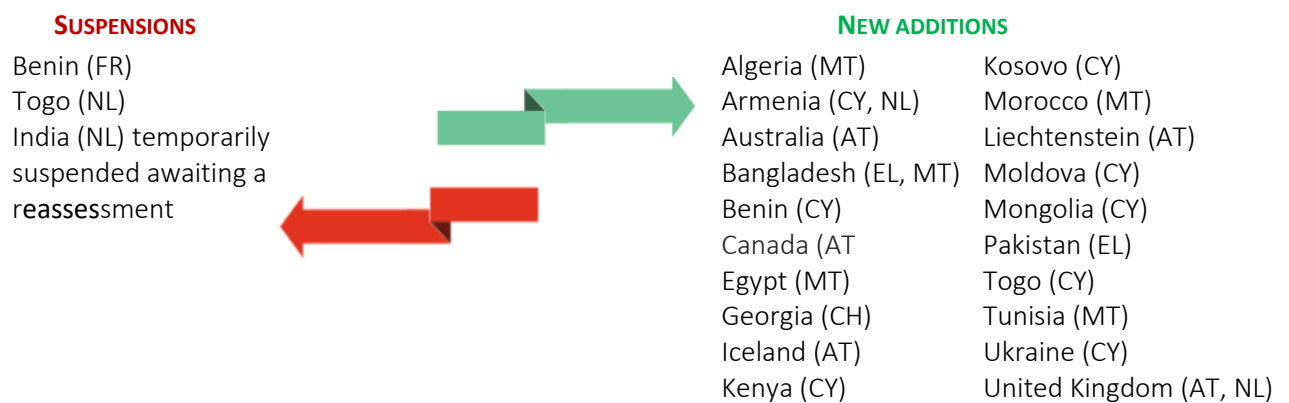
Armenia (AT, CY, EE, FR, EL, NL), Japan (DK, FI, IS, MT, NL, SK), and Moldova (CY, CZ, DK, FR, IS, CH) stand with 27% designation rates followed by Benin (AT, CY, LU, MT, CH) with 23%, Bangladesh (CY, EL, MT, SI), Cabo Verde (FR, IT, LU, MT) both with 18% and Egypt (CY, MT, SI) with 14%.

India has reached 32% as it is included in national lists in Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, France, Greece, Malta and Switzerland. Recently, it was temporarily suspended pending a new assessment in the Netherlands.

Latest amendments in safe country of origin lists

According to recast Asylum Procedures Directive, Member States should conduct regular reviews of the situation in safe countries based on a range of sources of information. When a significant change related to the human rights situation occurs in a country which has been designated as safe, Member States must review the situation as soon as possible and, where necessary, assess the designation of that country as safe.

During periodical reviews, new countries can be determined as safe, and others can be withdrawn from a national list (*see Annex I*). In 2020-2021, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Greece, Malta, the Netherlands and Switzerland reviewed their national lists of safe countries of origin. The main changes clearly focus on additions of new countries and may be summed up as follows:



Following its withdrawal from the European Union, the United Kingdom was included in the safe countries of origin lists in Austria and the Netherlands.

For the first time, Sweden introduced a national list in May 2021, designating the following countries of origin as safe:

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Albania | Georgia | North Macedonia |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Kosovo | Serbia |
| Chile | Mongolia | |



Every rule comes with an exception

The designation of a country of origin as safe is not necessarily all-encompassing, as in many cases EU+ countries define exceptions for specific geographical areas or profiles of asylum seekers within a safe country. For example, Czechia, Denmark and Finland have designated Georgia as a safe country of origin with an exception for specific regions, mainly South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Similarly, for Ukraine exceptions for asylum seekers originating from the regions of Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk are in place in Cyprus, Czechia and Iceland. Czechia and Switzerland have included Moldova without Transnistria, while Hungary has designated the United States but only for those states which do not apply the death penalty.

With regard to specific groups of people, Luxembourg has designated Benin and Ghana as safe countries of origin but only for men. With regard to Russia, Denmark applies exceptions for ethnic Chechens, LGBTI applicants and Russian Jews, as well as people with political activities who have been exposed to abuse by the authorities. The country also has exceptions for LGBTI applicants in general (*see Annex II*). Exceptions for specific profiles in Armenia, Morocco and Tunisia are included in the Netherlands.

Safe country of origin concept before the courts

The practical application of the safe country of origin concept has been interpreted by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and national courts of EU+ countries.

At the European level

When a Member State has not implemented the concept of a safe country of origin into relevant laws, regulations and administrative provisions, the CJEU ruled in 2018, [A. v Migrationsverket](#) (C-404/17), that an asylum application cannot be rejected as manifestly unfounded on the grounds that the applicant is from a safe country of origin. In this case, the Swedish authorities had incorrectly relied on the rebuttable presumption in the recast Asylum Procedures Directive for procedures based on the safe country of origin concept without having fully implemented the concept in legislation. In the same case, the court noted that the safe country concept fell under an accelerated procedure in Sweden, which meant that the applicant could not remain in the territory while awaiting the outcome of an appeal due to the lack of a suspensive effect of appeals in accelerated procedures.

The ECtHR also analysed the safe country of origin concept in [D.L. v Austria](#) in 2017. It was held that declaring by law a country as safe does not relieve the extraditing state from conducting an individual risk assessment. In this case, the court was satisfied that national authorities in Austria analysed an applicant's individual situation during three sets of proceedings, even though Kosovo was declared by law as a safe country of origin. The court found no violation of the European Convention, Articles 2 and 3, as the applicant did not substantiate a risk regarding the lack of state protection from a blood feud or that he would be subjected to inadequate conditions of detention if extradited to Kosovo.

The ECtHR decided in a similar manner in 2016 in the case of *Khlaifia and Others v Italy*, when the Italian government argued that Tunisia was a safe country of origin for a group of migrants who arrived by sea. Even if a country is declared to be a safe country of origin, the court held that it may not be safe for everyone and an individual assessment of circumstances is required. The court noted that the expulsion of migrants without thoroughly examining their individual situation would significantly increase the risk of a breach of the *non-refoulement* principle. The court also noted that, for the obligation of a state to be fulfilled effectively under the European Convention, Protocol No 4, Article 4, it must first be given effect through a personal interview.

At the national level

National courts in EU+ countries also issued a number of judgments concerning the safe country of origin concept:

- The Administrative Court of Cyprus concluded that [Pakistan](#) was a safe country of origin for an applicant claiming fear of persecution for political reasons and danger from the Taliban.
- The Czech Regional Court of Ostrava concluded that [Poland](#) was a safe country of origin for a Polish national claiming a politically motivated prosecution in Poland.
- The Irish High Court examined the designation of [Albania](#) and [Georgia](#) as safe countries of origin.
- The Italian Civil Court of Florence examined [Senegal](#) and its Casamance region for an applicant claiming fear of persecution based on sexual orientation.
- The Administrative Tribunal of Luxembourg examined the designation of [Serbia](#).
- The Dutch Council of State examined [Mongolia](#) as safe country for an LGBTI+ applicant and [Morocco](#) for an applicant from the Rif region.
- The Italian Court of Cassation pronounced a [judgment](#) on 14 October 2020 regarding the retroactivity of the legislative provisions establishing a list of safe countries of origin, which come into force while appeal procedures were ongoing. The court held that applicants from safe countries who lodged an appeal before the entry into force of the new legislative provision which established the list of safe countries do not have the burden of proof for showing the danger of their country of origin.

As seen, courts have interpreted the concept of safe countries of origin and underlined that the designation of a safe country in national legal provisions does not warrant an automatic application of the list of safe countries of origin irrespective of the individual situation of the applicant. National authorities and the courts assess country of origin information and the individual circumstances of the applicant so that international protection may be granted if there are reasons to believe that the applicant is not safe in the country of origin based on an individual review.

Conclusions

- As more and more EU+ countries use a national list of safe countries of origin, the concept may in practice concern a significant number of applicants for international protection in Europe. Already the vast majority of EU+ countries have such a list in place. Further quantitative analysis (how many applicants in practice fall under the safe country of origin designation) would yield useful information into its practical impact on asylum in Europe.
- With the exception of EU candidate and potential candidate countries, which feature on the majority of lists of safe countries of origin, national lists differ significantly. The differences can be partially attributed to different asylum flows, with some EU+ countries receiving more applicants from a particular country of origin. Furthermore, within one country of origin various profiles may be represented who have different protection needs or may not be in need of protection. Additional information on specific profiles represented among asylum applicants from the same country of origin would be beneficial in assessing the actual level of convergence across national lists.
- Concerning the practical implementation of asylum procedures for individuals coming from safe countries of origin, national courts play an important role in reviewing and implementing safe country of origin lists and providing an interpretation of various elements of the concept. More information on actual procedural consequences of the designation of a country as safe while the procedure is pending at first instance or an appeal instance and a comparative analysis of national practices would allow for a better understanding of the immediate impact of changes to the lists.

Methodological note

The information is based on input extracted from the EASO Information and Documentation System (restricted) and the [EASO Case Law Database](#).

EASO expresses gratitude to asylum and reception authorities in EU+ countries for the continued cooperation and information exchange. The contributions of national asylum experts are invaluable in helping EASO maintain an accurate and up-to-date overview of asylum-related developments in Europe and beyond.



Annex I – List of relevant case- law related to safe countries of origin

- Cyprus, Administrative Court for International Protection [Διοικητικό Δικαστήριο Διεθνούς Προστασίας], [F.I. \(Pakistan\) v Refugee Review Authority](#), 29/10/2020.
- Cyprus, Administrative Court for International Protection [Διοικητικό Δικαστήριο Διεθνούς Προστασίας], [H.T.T.T. \(Vietnam\) v Department of Population and Immigration Record](#), 09/10/2020.
- Czechia, Administrative Court [Správní soud], [J.S.P. \(Poland\) v Ministry of Interior \(Ministerstvo vnútra\)](#), 13/06/2019.
- European Union, Court of Justice of the European Union [CJEU], [A. v Migrationsverket \(Sweden\)](#), 24/07/2018.
- Ireland, High Court, [B. and Ors. \(Albania\) v The International Protection Appeals Tribunal & Ors.](#), 14/11/2019.
- Ireland, High Court, [IL v The International Protection Appeals Tribunal and The Minister for Justice](#), 12/02/2021.
- Italy, Civil Court [Tribunali], [Applicant \(Senegal\) v Ministry of Interior \(Prefettura di Firenze\)](#), 22/01/2020.
- Italy, Supreme Court - Civil section [Corte di Cassazione], [Applicant \(Ghana\) v Ministry of the Interior \(Ministero dell'Interno\)](#), 14/10/2020.
- Luxembourg, Administrative Tribunal [Tribunal administratif], [Applicant \(Serbia\) v Minister of Immigration and Asylum \(Ministre de l'Immigration et de l'Asile\)](#), no. 45804, 19/04/2021.
- Netherlands, Council of State [Afdeling Bestuursrechtspraak van de Raad van State], [Applicant \(Mongolia\) v State Secretary for Justice and Security \(Staatssecretaris van Justitie en Veiligheid\)](#), 07/04/2021.
- Netherlands, Council of State [Afdeling Bestuursrechtspraak van de Raad van State], [Applicants \(Morocco\) and minor v Court of The Hague \[Utrecht seat, Decision of July 20, 2017 in cases no. NL17.4064 and NL17.4176\]](#), 19/03/2019.

For case law news and relevant jurisprudence, please visit the [EASO Case Law Database](#).

Annex II – Lists of safe countries of origin in EU+ countries

- This is an overview of the safe countries of origin per country. Relevant acts are indicated with links to original source, where available.
- If new countries are designated following a review of the list, the year is indicated. Countries removed from the SCO lists are also mentioned.
- Where Kosovo is mentioned, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Country	Current list	Latest update to lists and relevant acts
Austria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Albania Algeria Armenia Australia (2021) Benin Bosnia and Herzegovina Canada (2021) Georgia Ghana Iceland (2021) Kosovo Liechtenstein (2021) Mongolia Montenegro Morocco Namibia New Zealand North Macedonia Norway Senegal Serbia South Korea Switzerland Tunisia Ukraine United Kingdom and Northern Ireland (2021) Uruguay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 87th Federal Act, which enacted a BFA Establishment Act and a BFA Procedural Act as well as the Asylum Act 2005, the Aliens Police Act 2005, the Settlement and Residence Act, the Citizenship Act 1985, the Federal Basic Welfare Act 2005 and the Introductory Act to the Administrative Procedure Acts 2008 (Aliens Authority Restructuring Act - FNG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RIS - BFA-Verfahrensgesetz - Bundesrecht konsolidiert, Fassung vom 25.05.2021 ▪ Ordinance of the Federal Government, with which states are determined as safe countries of origin (States of Origin Ordinance - HStV) Federal Law Gazette II No. 177/2009 modified by Federal Law Gazette II No. 428/2010 Federal Law Gazette II No. 405/2013 Federal Law Gazette II No. 47/2016 Federal Law Gazette II No. 25/2018 Federal Law Gazette II No. 130/2018 Federal Law Gazette II No. 113/2019 Federal Law Gazette II No. 145/2019: Sri Lanka (added in 2018) is no longer considered to be a safe country of origin, while Namibia, South Korea and Uruguay were added to the list.
Belgium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina Georgia India Kosovo Montenegro North Macedonia Serbia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Royal Decree of 17 December 2017 ▪ Royal Decree of 15 February 2019 ▪ Royal Decree of 14 December 2020 establishing the list of safe countries of origin (Arrêté royal du 14 décembre 2020 portant exécution de l'article 57/6/1, alinéa 4, de la loi du 15 décembre 1980 sur l'accès au territoire, le séjour, l'établissement et l'éloignement des étrangers, établissant la liste des pays d'origine sûrs / Koninklijk besluit van 14

Country	Current list	Latest update to lists and relevant acts
		december 2020 tot uitvoering van het artikel 57/6/1, vierde lid, van de wet van 15 februari 1980 betreffende de toegang tot het grondgebied, het verblijf, de vestiging en de verwijdering van vreemdelingen, houdende de vastlegging van de lijst van veilige landen van herkomst)
Bulgaria	No list adopted	
Croatia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Algeria 3. Bosnia and Herzegovina 4. Kosovo 5. Montenegro 6. Morocco 7. North Macedonia 8. Serbia 9. Tunisia 10. Turkey 	Decision of the minister of the interior on the list of safe countries of origin in the international protection procedure (Official Gazette Government Decision (OG 45/2016) , of 13 May 2016
Cyprus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Algeria 3. Armenia (2021) 4. Bangladesh 5. Benin (2021) 6. Bosnia Herzegovina 7. Egypt 8. Gambia 9. Georgia 10. Ghana 11. India 12. Kenya (2021) 13. Kosovo (2021) 14. Moldova (2021) 15. Mongolia (2021) 16. Montenegro 17. Morocco 18. Nepal 19. Nigeria 20. North Macedonia 21. Pakistan 22. Philippines 23. Senegal 24. Serbia 25. Sri Lanka 26. Togo (2021) 27. Tunisia 	Decree 198/2020 on the basis of Article 12B3 of the Refugee Law (May 2020) Decree 225/2021 on the basis of Article 12B3 of the Refugee Law (26 May 2021)

Country	Current list	Latest update to lists and relevant acts
	28. Ukraine (except for Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk) (2021) 29. Vietnam	
Czechia	1. Albania 2. Algeria 3. Australia 4. Bosnia and Herzegovina 5. Canada 6. Georgia, with the exception of Abkhazia and South Ossetia 7. Ghana 8. Iceland 9. India 10. Kosovo 11. Liechtenstein 12. Moldova, with the exception of Transnistria 13. Mongolia 14. Montenegro 15. Morocco 16. New Zealand 17. North Macedonia 18. Norway 19. Senegal 20. Serbia 21. Switzerland 22. Tunisia 23. Ukraine, with the exception of the Crimean Peninsula and parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions under the control of pro-Russian separatists 24. United States	Decree No. 328/2015 Coll. implementing the Asylum Act and the Act on Temporary Protection of Aliens as amended in 2019
Denmark	1. Albania 2. Australia 3. Bosnia and Herzegovina 4. Canada 5. EU countries 6. Georgia (following an assessment, exceptions apply for LGBTI applicants and persons seeking asylum from Abkhazia and South Ossetia) 7. Iceland 8. Japan 9. Kosovo 10. Liechtenstein 11. Moldova 12. Mongolia 13. Montenegro	Danish Immigration Service, ÅGH country list 2018 (DK) ,

Country	Current list	Latest update to lists and relevant acts
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. New Zealand 15. North Macedonia 16. Norway 17. Russia (following an assessment, exceptions apply for ethnic Chechens, LGBTI applicants, and Russian Jews, as well as people with political activities that have been exposed to abuse by the authorities) 18. Serbia 19. Switzerland 20. United States 	
Estonia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Armenia 3. Bosnia and Herzegovina 4. Georgia 5. Kosovo 6. Montenegro 7. North Macedonia 8. Serbia 9. Ukraine 	<p>Introduced on the 11 of April 2017. In 2018, the list of safe countries of origin was reviewed, but no amendments were made.</p>
Finland	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Australia 3. Bosnia and Herzegovina 4. Georgia (excluding South Ossetia and Abkhazia) 5. Japan 6. Canada 7. Kosovo 8. North Macedonia 9. Montenegro 10. Serbia 11. New Zealand 12. United States 13. EU Member States, Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein 	

Country	Current list	Latest update to lists and relevant acts
France	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Armenia 3. Bosnia and Herzegovina 4. Cabo Verde 5. Georgia 6. Ghana 7. India 8. Kosovo 9. Mauritius 10. Moldova 11. Mongolia 12. Montenegro 13. North Macedonia 14. Senegal 15. Serbia 	<p>Decision of the OFPRA Board of Directors of 30 June 2005 (inscription of Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Croatia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Mali, Mauritius, Mongolia, Senegal and Ukraine)</p> <p>Decision of the OFPRA Board of Directors of 16 May 2006 (Inscription of Albania, North Macedonia, Madagascar, Niger and Tanzania)</p> <p>Decision No. 295443 of the Council of State of 13 February 2008 concerning the decision of the OFPRA Board of May 16, 2006: (Retention of Macedonia, Madagascar and Tanzania. Withdrawal of Albania and Niger)</p> <p>Decision of the OFPRA Board of Directors of 20 November 2009 (Inscription of Armenia, Serbia and Turkey. Withdrawal of Georgia)</p> <p>Decision No. 336034 of the Council of State of 23 July 2010 concerning the decision of the OFPRA Board of 20 November 2009⁷. (Retention of Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ghana, India, Macedonia, Mongolia, Senegal, Serbia and Tanzania. Withdrawal from Armenia, Madagascar, Turkey, Mali for its nationals)</p> <p>Decision of the OFPRA Board of Directors of 18 March 2011 (Inscription of Albania and Kosovo)</p> <p>Decision of the OFPRA Board of Directors 6 December 2011 (Inscription of Armenia, Bangladesh, Moldova, Montenegro)</p> <p>Decision No. 349174 of the Council of State of 26 March 2012 concerning the decision of the OFPRA Board of March 2011 (annulment of the registration of Albania and Kosovo)</p> <p>Decision of the OFPRA Board of Directors 26 December 2012 (complete removal of Mali from the list).</p> <p>Decision No. 356490 of the Council of State of 4 March 2013 concerning the decision of the OFPRA Board of 6 December 2011 (Retention of Armenia, Moldova and Montenegro. Withdrawal from Bangladesh.)</p> <p>Decision of the OFPRA Board of Directors of 28 June 2013 (Withdrawal from Croatia)</p> <p>Decision of the OFPRA Board of Directors of 16 December 2013 (Inscription of Albania,</p>

⁷ See also <http://www.gisti.org/IMG/pdf/norimia1000120c.pdf>

Country	Current list	Latest update to lists and relevant acts
		<p>Georgia and Kosovo.)</p> <p>Decision of the OFPRA Board of Directors of 26 March 2014 (Withdrawal from Ukraine)</p> <p>Decision No. 375474 of the Council of State of 10 October 2014 concerning the decision of the OFPRA Board of 16 December 2013</p> <p>(Retention of Albania and Georgia. Annulment of Kosovo)</p> <p>Decision of the OFPRA Board of Directors 9 October 2015 (Inscription of Kosovo.</p> <p>Withdrawal from Tanzania)</p> <p>Decisions No. 395058, 395075, 395133, 395383 of the Council of State of 30 December 2016 concerning the decision of the OFPRA Board of 9 October 2015</p> <p>(Retention of Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kosovo, Senegal and Serbia).</p> <p>Decision of the OFPRA Board of Directors 29 September 2020 (Suspension of Benin for one year)</p>
Germany	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania (2015) 2. Bosnia and Herzegovina 3. EU Member States 4. Ghana 5. Kosovo (2015) 6. Montenegro (2015) 7. North Macedonia 8. Senegal 9. Serbia 	<p>List of Safe Countries of Origin, Annex II of Section 29a of the Asylum Act (AsylG 2015)</p> <p>EU Member States: based on Article 29a(2) of the Asylum Act, EU Member States are by definition safe countries of origin.</p> <p>Article 1 Law on the classification of other countries as safe countries of origin and to facilitate access to the labor market for asylum seekers and tolerated foreigners of 31 October 2014, Federal Law Gazette I, p. 1649</p>
Greece	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Algeria 3. Armenia 4. Bangladesh (2021) 5. Gambia 6. Georgia 7. Ghana 8. India 9. Morocco 10. Pakistan (2021) 11. Senegal 12. Togo 13. Tunisia 14. Ukraine 	<p>The first list was adopted on 31 December 2019 by Joint Ministerial Decision No 1302 adopting National List of countries of origin classified as safe according to Article 87(5) of Law No 4636/2019, Gov. Gaz. 4907 B'/31.12.2019</p> <p>The list was updated on 29 January 2021, retaining previously classified countries, and adding Pakistan and Bangladesh.</p> <p>Joint Ministerial Decision No 778 (Gov.Gaz. 317/29.01.2021) adopting a national list of countries of origin classified as safe according to Article 87(5) of Law No 4636/2019.</p>
Hungary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EU Member States 2. Albania 3. Australia 	<p>Government Decree No 63/2016 (III.31) amending</p> <p>Government Decree No 191/2015. (VII.21)</p>

Country	Current list	Latest update to lists and relevant acts
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Bosnia and Herzegovina 5. Canada 6. Iceland 7. Kosovo 8. Liechtenstein 9. Montenegro 10. New Zealand 11. North Macedonia 12. Norway 13. Serbia 14. Switzerland 15. Turkey* 16. United States (states that do not apply the death penalty) 	<p>determining at the national level the safe countries of origin and safe third countries.</p> <p>EU Member States and candidate countries, Member States of the European Economic Area and states in the United States of America which do not apply the death penalty are considered safe countries of origin.</p> <p>*In 2015, Turkey was excluded although it is a candidate country. No such reference was made in 2016.</p>
Iceland	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Australia 3. Bosnia and Herzegovina 4. Canada 5. EU member States 6. Georgia 7. Japan 8. Kosovo 9. Liechtenstein 10. Moldova 11. Monaco 12. Montenegro 13. New Zealand 14. North Macedonia 15. Norway 16. Serbia 17. Switzerland 18. Ukraine (except the regions Donetsk, Luhansk and Crimea) 19. United States 	<p>List of safe countries 20 December 2018</p>
Ireland	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Bosnia and Herzegovina 3. Georgia 4. Kosovo 5. North Macedonia 6. Montenegro 7. Serbia 8. South Africa 	<p>International Protection Act 2015 (Safe Countries of Origin) Order 2018 (S.I. No. 121 of 2018)</p> <p>South Africa was initially designated as a Safe Country of Origin in 2004 under the Refugee Act 1996 (Safe Country of Origin) Order 2004 (SI No 714/2004) The 2004 Order was revoked on 16 April 2018 and South Africa was re-designated as a Safe Country of Origin under the 2018 Order (S.I. No. 121 of 2018) for the purpose of having just one national list of safe countries of origin.</p>
Italy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Algeria 	<p>Decree on the "Identification of safe countries of origin, pursuant to article 2-bis of the</p>

Country	Current list	Latest update to lists and relevant acts
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Bosnia and Herzegovina 4. Cabo Verde 5. Ghana 6. Kosovo 7. Montenegro 8. Morocco 9. North Macedonia 10. Senegal 11. Serbia 12. Tunisia 13. Ukraine 	<p>legislative 28 January 2008, n. 25 ", (Official Gazette No. 235/7 October 2019)</p>
Latvia	No list adopted	
Lithuania	No list adopted	
Luxembourg	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Benin (only for men) 3. Bosnia and Herzegovina 4. Cabo Verde 5. Croatia 6. Georgia (2017) 7. Ghana (only for men) 8. Kosovo (2013) 9. Montenegro 10. North Macedonia 11. Senegal 12. Serbia (2011) 13. Ukraine 	<p>Grand-Ducal Regulation of December 21, 2007 establishing a list of safe countries of origin within the meaning of the amended Law of 5 May 2006 on the right to asylum and additional forms of protection as amended in 2011, 2013 (removed Mali), 2017.</p>
Malta	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EU Member States (2008) 2. Algeria (2020) 3. Australia 4. Bangladesh (2020) 5. Benin 6. Botswana 7. Brazil 8. Canada 9. Cabo Verde 10. Chile 11. Costa Rica 12. Egypt (2020) 13. Gabon 14. Ghana 15. Iceland 16. India 17. Jamaica 18. Japan 19. Liechtenstein 20. Morocco (2020) 21. New Zealand 	<p>Act No. VIII of 2004 amending the Refugees Act, Cap. 420 (list of safe countries)</p> <p>Refugees Act (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations, 2005 (Mali is removed)</p> <p>Act No. VII of 2008 to amend the Refugees Act, Cap. 420 (Bulgaria and Romania removed. Member States of the EU and EEA included under this heading)</p> <p>ACT No. XX of 2017 AN ACT to amend the Refugees Act, Cap. 420. (Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland to be deleted)</p> <p>Legaal Notice 198 of 2020 Refugees Act (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations, 2020 https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2020/198/eng/pdf (inclusion of Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia)</p>

Country	Current list	Latest update to lists and relevant acts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22. Norway 23. Senegal 24. Tunisia (2020) 25. Uruguay 26. United States 	
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EU countries 2. Albania 3. Algeria 4. Andorra 5. Armenia (2020) 6. Australia 7. Bosnia and Herzegovina 8. Brazil 9. Canada 10. Georgia 11. Ghana 12. Iceland 13. Jamaica 14. Japan 15. Kosovo 16. Liechtenstein 17. Monaco 18. Mongolia 19. Montenegro 20. Morocco 21. New Zealand 22. North Macedonia 23. Norway 24. San Marino 25. Senegal 26. Serbia 27. Switzerland 28. Trinidad and Tobago 29. Tunisia 30. Ukraine 31. United Kingdom (2020) 32. United States 33. Vatican City 	<p>Appendix 13 to Article 3.37f, third paragraph, Regulations on Aliens 2000 (safe countries of origin). Due to Brexit, the United Kingdom has been added to the list of safe countries of origin. Armenia was added as well (27 March 2020) though with specific groups exempted: “Kamerbrief veilige landen van herkomst beoordeling Armenië”</p> <p>Togo was removed from this list (30 September 2020): “Kamerbrief over herbeoordeling veilige landen van herkomst tranche 2 tot en met 5”</p> <p>On 7 April 2021 a ruling by the Council of State’s highest general administrative court [ECLI:NL:RVS:2021:738] in an individual case, has set into motion a reassessment of all safe countries of origin. This process is still ongoing. Currently, the Ministry of Justice and Security has completed the reassessment of the first batch of countries (Georgia, Morocco, and Tunisia) in line with the Council of State’s ruling: Kamerbrief over herbeoordeling veilige landen van herkomst – Georgië, Marokko en Tunesië These three countries are still considered safe countries of origin. However, specific groups in Morocco and Tunisia have been exempted.</p> <p>India (suspended awaiting new assessment)</p>
Norway	No fixed list designated, concept applied on case-by-case basis	
Poland	No list adopted	
Portugal	No list adopted	
Romania	No list adopted	
Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Australia 	Government Regulation No 716/2002

Country	Current list	Latest update to lists and relevant acts
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Canada 3. Ghana 4. Iceland 5. Japan 6. Kenya 7. Liechtenstein 8. Mauritius 9. Montenegro (2002, not included in 2006, included in 2013) 10. New Zealand 11. Norway 12. Seychelles 13. South Africa 14. Switzerland 15. United States 	<p>Coll.Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic issuing the list of safe third countries and safe countries of origin (as amended by Government Regulation No 288/2004 Coll. , 695/2006 Coll. , 205/2013 Coll.</p> <p>The following were also included</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bulgaria (2004, not included in 2006) 2. Croatia (added on 2007, deleted in 2013) 3. Romania (2004, not included in 2006) 4. Senegal (2004, not included in 2006)
Slovenia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Algeria 3. Bangladesh 4. Bosnia and Herzegovina 5. Egypt 6. Georgia (2019) 7. Kosovo 8. Montenegro 9. Morocco 10. Nepal (2019) 11. North Macedonia 12. Senegal (2019) 13. Serbia 14. Tunisia 	<p>Ordinance of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia determining the list of safe countries of origin (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 38/19) Turkey, previously introduced, was deleted in 2019</p> <p>Replaced Ordinance of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia determining the list of safe countries of origin (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 13/16),</p>
Spain	No list adopted	
Sweden	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albania 2. Bosnia and Herzegovina 3. Chile 4. Georgia 5. Kosovo 6. Mongolia 7. North Macedonia 8. Serbia 	<p>Swedish Migration Agency's regulations on a list of safe countries of origin adopted on 25th of May 2021 (MIGRFS 2021:4,)</p>
Switzerland	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EU+ countries 2. Albania 3. Benin 4. Bosnia and Herzegovina 5. Georgia (2021) 6. Ghana 7. India 8. Kosovo 9. Liechtenstein 	<p>Annex 2 Introduced by Ch. II of the Asylum Ordinance 1 relating to the asylum procedure of 12 June 2015 (RO 2015 1873) as amended and in force since 1 May 2021 (RO 2021 205).</p>



Country	Current list	Latest update to lists and relevant acts
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">10. Moldova (without Transnistria)11. Mongolia12. Montenegro13. North Macedonia14. Senegal15. Serbia16. United Kingdom	



Annex III - Table of countries of origin indicated as safe in each EU+ country

Country of Origin	Austria	Belgium	Croatia	Cyprus	Czechia	Denmark	Estonia	France	Finland	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Iceland	Ireland	Italy	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Slovakia	Slovenia	Sweden	Switzerland
Albania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Algeria	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes						Yes				Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes		
Andorra																		Yes				
Armenia	Yes			Yes			Yes	Yes			Yes							Yes				
Australia	Yes				Yes	Yes			Yes			Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes			
Bangladesh				Yes							Yes						Yes			Yes		
Benin	Yes			Yes												Yes	Yes					Yes
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Botswana																	Yes					
Brazil																	Yes	Yes				
Canada	Yes				Yes	Yes			Yes			Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes			
Cabo Verde								Yes							Yes	Yes	Yes					
Chile																	Yes				Yes	
Costa Rica																	Yes					
Croatia																Yes						
Egypt				Yes													Yes			Yes		
EU Countries						Yes			Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes				Yes
Gabon																	Yes					
Gambia				Yes							Yes											
Georgia	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Ghana	Yes			Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes
Iceland	Yes				Yes	Yes						Yes					Yes	Yes	Yes			
India		Yes		Yes	Yes			Yes			Yes						Yes					Yes
Jamaica																	Yes	Yes				
Japan						Yes			Yes				Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes			
Kenya				Yes															Yes			
Kosovo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Liechtenstein	Yes				Yes	Yes			Yes			Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes
Mauritius								Yes											Yes			
Moldova				Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes					Yes									Yes
Monaco													Yes						Yes			
Mongolia	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes										Yes			Yes	Yes
Montenegro	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Morocco	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes						Yes				Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes		
Namibia	Yes																					
Nepal				Yes																Yes		
New Zealand	Yes				Yes	Yes			Yes			Yes	Yes				yes	yes	yes			
Nigeria				Yes																		
North Macedonia	Yes	Yes	yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	yes	yes	yes		yes		yes	yes	yes
Norway	Yes				Yes	Yes			yes			yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes			
Pakistan				Yes							Yes											
Philippines				Yes																		
Russia						Yes																
San Marino																			Yes			
Senegal	Yes			Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes
Serbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Seychelles																			Yes			
South Africa														Yes					Yes			
South Korea	Yes																					
Sri Lanka				Yes																		
Switzerland	Yes				Yes	Yes			Yes			Yes	Yes					Yes	Yes			
Togo				Yes							Yes											
Trinidad and Tobago																			Yes			
Tunisia	yes		Yes	Yes	Yes						Yes				Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes		
Turkey			Yes									Yes										
Ukraine	Yes			Yes	Yes		Yes				Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes				
United Kingdom	Yes																		Yes			Yes
Uruguay	Yes																Yes					
United States					Yes	Yes			Yes			Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes			
Vietnam				Yes																		
Vatican City																		Yes				