

# CHANGES TO THE CPLP RESIDENCE PERMIT



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**“(...) A CITIZEN COVERED BY THE CPLP AGREEMENT WHO HOLDS A SHORT-TERM VISA OR HAS LEGALLY ENTERED PORTUGAL MAY APPLY FOR A TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT.”**

WRITTEN BY



**MÁRCIA FARIAS**  
Associate



**MARTA VERA-CRUZ**  
Trainee

On 13 February, Law no. 9/2025 was published, modifying the validity of residence permits for citizens of member states of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP).

As a result, the Aliens Act now expressly states that a citizen covered by the CPLP Agreement who holds a short-term visa or has legally entered Portugal may apply for a temporary residence permit. In Portugal, the temporary residence permit is valid for two years and renewable for successive periods of three years.

In this way, the legislator has consolidated the regime applicable to residence permits issued under the CPLP Agreement, making them equivalent to the other residence permits provided for by law. In other words, from now on, nationals of CPLP countries will obtain a residence permit issued on the uniform model used in the European Union, on plasticised card, instead of the A4 paper certificates that were issued until then.

As a result, AIMA (Agency for Integration, Migrations and Asylum) has publicly announced that it has already begun notifying CPLP residence permit holders with instructions for renewing and replacing them with the uniform model residence permit.

This legislative change follows an infringement procedure initiated by the European Commission against Portugal, due to the fact that the CPLP Residence Permits did not comply with the uniform model. In addition, the model previously in force did not allow holders to travel within the Schengen area.

It is also important to note that following the repeal of the Expression of Interest procedures, this legislative amendment provides for the possibility of CPLP nationals to continue to apply for a residence permit in Portugal, eliminating the prior requirement to obtain a residence visa in their country of origin.

**“(…) FROM NOW ON, NATIONALS OF CPLP COUNTRIES WILL OBTAIN A RESIDENCE PERMIT ISSUED ON THE UNIFORM MODEL USED IN THE EUROPEAN UNION, ON PLASTICISED CARD, INSTEAD OF THE A4 PAPER CERTIFICATES THAT WERE ISSUED UNTIL THEN.”**

