

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Phil & Tim

On Friday December 19, 2008 Senator Voinovich



hosted a reception to discuss the upcoming Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) program. Members of Cleveland's various nationality communities had the opportunity to participant in a question and session which, followed the senator's remarks. Senator Voinovich's Cleveland office is located at 1240East 9th St. in the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building.



GEORGE V. VOINOVICH

UNITED STATES SENATOR
OHIO

524 HART SENATE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
202-224-3353 FAX: 202-1382
[HTTP://VOINOVICH.SENATE.GOV](http://voinovich.senate.gov)

Photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/philip.hrvatini/VoinovichVisaWaiver>

US EMBASSY LJUBLJANA - EVENTS

December 2008

ESTA Mandatory on January 12 and Easy to Apply For, Explains US Consul

In a press conference on December 17th, Consul Aaron Luster reminded Slovenians that on January 12, travelers to the US under the visa waiver program are required to have an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) approval before their arrival to the United States. The ESTA is free and the application is entirely online. The ESTA is valid for up to two years and can be used for multiple trips. During the press conference, Consul Luster explained that ESTA is required only for those traveling under visa waiver, those traveling with a visa do not have to apply for an ESTA. He also stated that over 1500 ESTA applications from Slovenia have been received and he hopes people will register with ESTA as soon as they plan to visit the United States.



Consul Aaron Luster (Photo
Courtesy of Robert Balen, Vecer)



Press Release

November 13, 2008
Contact: DHS Press Office, (202) 282-8010

**ESTA AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED FOR ALL VISA WAIVER PROGRAM
COUNTRIES BEGINNING JANUARY 12**
DHS to Designate Seven Additional Visa Waiver Countries

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced today that beginning Jan. 12, 2009, eligible citizens or nationals from all Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries must obtain approval through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to traveling to the United States under the VWP. On Monday, DHS will formally announce the addition of seven allies to the list of countries authorized to participate in the VWP. The seven countries are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, the Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, and Slovakia.

“We are especially pleased to welcome these allies into the Visa Waiver Program,” said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. “Expanding the number of countries whose citizens can travel to the U.S. without a visa increases business and social ties between our countries and at the same time deepens cooperation on required security measures.”

The administration sought authority for years to reform the VWP. DHS received authorization through the issuance of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. The VWP is administered by the department and enables eligible citizens or nationals of certain countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. To be admitted to the VWP, a country must meet various statutory requirements, such as more enhanced law enforcement and security-related data sharing with the United States and timely reporting of both blank and issued lost and stolen passports. VWP members are also required to maintain high counterterrorism, law enforcement, border control, and document security standards.

The citizens or nationals of the following countries are currently eligible to travel to the United States under the VWP: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Beginning Nov. 17, eligible citizens or nationals from the new VWP countries may travel to the

United States under the program provided they have an e-passport and an approved authorization via ESTA, a web-based system that determines the preliminary eligibility of visitors to travel under the VWP prior to boarding a carrier to the United States.

Required authorization through ESTA will substantially strengthen the security of the VWP by providing the department with the capability to conduct advance screening of VWP travelers. ESTA is key to transforming the VWP from a program that evaluates security threats on a country-by-country basis to one that is capable of making traveler-by-traveler judgments. In addition to enhancing security, ESTA will provide for greater efficiencies in the screening of international travelers by reducing traveler delays at the ports of entry.

The department has submitted notices summarizing these changes to the Federal Register for publication. For more information on the Visa Waiver Program, please visit http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/business_pleasure/vwp/. For additional information on ESTA, visit www.cbp.gov/esta.

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Emanuela Šlebinger

Hello! My name is Emanuela Šlebinger. I am a fourth year student of English and Pedagogy at the Faculty of Arts in Slovenia. I am starting on my diploma paper about Slovene Americans and their language (if they still speak Slovene, where they learned the language, their attitude towards language, etc). As I am not able to do my field work in the USA, I have decided to do the questioning with the help of internet. I created a questionnaire and I need at least 100 people of Slovene origin to answer it. My questionnaire is simple and contains 30 questions. Now I am searching for a forum or a web page where I could post my questionnaire so people could answer it. If you can help in anyway possible I would really appreciate it. emanuela.slebinger@gmail.com



<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228MTET2W5R>



“Bernard Pesjak and SlovinUS News www.pesjak.com/slovinus.htm wish the readers of www.ClevelandSlovenian.com Happy Holidays and prosperous New Year.”

Association of Geneva Slovenes (Switzerland)

Dr. Zvone Žigon thought you would find this site of interest.

<http://www.slovinci.org/doc/Novice%2045.pdf>



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