Introduction

- Israel was founded as a homeland for the Jewish people. As such, the general legislation provides only Jews with the right to immigrate and settle permanently.

- On the other hand, Israel, being an active player in the global economy, as well as a member of the OECD, strives to encourage HNWIs and foreign investments.

- This policy is also reflected in a new visa category recently approved by the Israeli parliament.
Roberta and Paul are exceptionally wealthy. What immigration categories (e.g. investor type programs) might apply to HNWIs such as Roberta and Paul?

- Up to recently – no visa category for investors in Israel.
- Newly approved by the Israeli Parliament (8/2014) – B-5 visa for American investors (full regulations not published yet*).
- Other visa categories: B-1 visa for experts
- Unique immigration options for Jewish Individuals.

*Please be advised that the information included on the B-5 is based on information released to the public to date (8/14) and is subject to change.
The B-5 Visa

- The visa will enable American investors to be admitted to Israel based on an investment s/he will be controlling while in Israel.
- Part of an Israel-U.S. reciprocal arrangement
  - Regulations will parallel the US regulations for E-2 visa.
- Substantial investment in a local company in Israel (leading to growth in the Israeli economy and creating new employment positions)
- The visa will also be given to highly qualified employees within the company (US nationals only) and to their dependents (of any nationality).
- The visa will be extended without limit, while investment is active.
Roberta and Paul are exceptionally wealthy. What immigration categories might apply to HNWIs such as Roberta and Paul?

- If either Roberta or Paul was a US national they would be eligible to apply for a B-5 visa, based on an investment in an Israeli company. In this case both would be allowed to work in IL.

- For other nationals- Roberta can apply for a B-1 visa as an expert. Paul can obtain a dependent visa, working will not be allowed. In case Paul is also qualified, he can apply for an expert visa separately.

- Other options for Jewish individuals.
Are there any long term requirements that the family should be aware of in order to maintain their immigration status in your country?

- The B-5 visa - for American national Investors - will be extended without limit, while investment is active.

- The B-1 Visa – given to experts - can be extended up to 63 months only.
Will any of the members of the family be able to acquire citizenship?

- Both of the visas mentioned (B-1/B-5) are not intended to grant permanent residency or citizenship.

- In general, only Jewish individuals (and their relatives) can obtain residency or citizenship in Israel.
A glance into the future

• The bilateral agreement between Israel and the US is the first of its type in Israel.
• This agreement is considered a breakthrough and is an opening for future agreements, which would enable other nationals to stay in Israel under investor visas.
• Agreements with EU countries are expected in the near future.
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