

Voice of the People

Manuscript
Traveling within EU
TVP3, Bialystok, Poland

Crew:

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Translation

Traveling within EU

TVP, Poland

Speaker: In 2003 694 million people all over the world traveled abroad, of which 4 million were Europeans. Will the enlargement of EU encourage Europeans to travel more? Will traveling be facilitated? Will more people be able to afford going abroad?

Lieutenant Anna Wołoszyn – Wrona

Podlaski Dep. of Border Guard: Nothing is changing in the countries, which already are in the EU. There are no border checks there. However, the ten new members have different regulations. Traveling from Germany to Poland one has to be prepared for a Customs check, but obviously it is simpler and easier than so far. Moreover, the situation is similar on the Polish-Lithuanian border and further on – on the Lithuanian-Latvian border and so on.

Robert Tyszkiewicz – Platforma Obywatelska (a political party)

I guess that dwellers of our region, who have traveled to Europe for years, looking for work, really will appreciate the fact that now they can move about without all these procedures, which often used be humiliating for them.

Young man in the street:

I think it's going to be easier. But for now I'm not planning to go abroad.

Girl in the street:

The most important thing I'd like to know before traveling abroad is something about documents you need there.

Lieutenant Anna Wołoszyn – Wrona

Podlaski Dep. of Border Guard: The basic document allowing for crossing all the borders in the world is the passport. However, in united Europe it is enough to have your ID. We need to remember that to go to Switzerland, which is outside the UE, we need to have our passport, especially at the airports.

Speaker: Border checks within the new members will disappear only when the ten countries sign the Schengen Treaty, so no sooner than in two years.

A woman: I would like to know more about travel and car insurance, since I travel by car a lot.

Piotr Sobolewski – director of the European Information Center in Białystok: Since May the 1st the new EU members enjoy mutual insurance which means that car insurance policy bought in one member state is valid and recognized in other EU countries. Problems may arise, as Poland has not harmonized its insurance policy layout with European standards, including translation into other EU languages. So when you are in Spain the police there might have problems with reading and understanding your papers. And the other way round – Polish police might have

difficulties with reading Spanish documents. So it might be a bit tricky in practice. In theory, though, we have car insurance recognized in all EU.

A woman in the street: What papers do I need to be sure I will get help when something bad happens?

Piotr Sobolewski: I recommend buying additional medical insurance in Poland. Medical care and transport are paid in most EU states. For example, if we went skiing to Austria, broke our leg, could not drive back home and had no additional medical insurance we would need to cover the costs of our transport.

A man in the street: What about money, currencies when we travel?

Andrzej Bartoszek- a banker: I recommend using the EU common currency, euro, which is a legal tender not only in the twelve euro zone members but is also accepted in UK, Denmark and Sweden.

A man in the street: It is probably the same problem in all the new member countries. When you walk into a shop and ask if you can pay in euros they are confused and tell you to pay in zlotys. They wouldn't accept euros even though theoretically it should be possible. But it is too difficult for them yet.

A girl in the street: Can I use my credit card abroad?

Andrzej Bartoszek: Of course. Plastic is always the easiest way to pay with so it's good to have a Visa or a Master Card on you. They are widely accepted across Europe, we can pay with such a card almost everywhere.

Speaker: In 2003 Poles traveled abroad nearly 39 million times of which 7 million were tourist destinations.

Beata Antypiuk – Liga Polskich Rodzin (political party of the eurosceptics), a candidate for the European Parliament:

The more affluent people or businessmen going on business trips abroad will travel as much as they used to before we joined the EU. But what about the unemployed and people living below minimum social standard. Those people haven't got money to pay a public transport bus fare, let alone trips abroad!

A girl in the street: Traveling has been never a problem in Poland. It's been always a matter of money. If you had money you could travel anywhere. It's the same now. It's just that there are no more borders, which is really nice.