

You have no legal residence right in Belgium or you have been denied entry at the border. You have received a decision that does not allow you to stay or enter Belgium. In certain situations, this decision will also mean that you will have to leave the entire Schengen territory or not be allowed to enter it. You are, therefore, **obliged to cooperate** with the services responsible for implementing this decision, whether you wish to leave voluntarily or are forced to return. This obligation applies to **all foreign nationals in unlawful stay**, regardless of your nationality.

The legal provisions on the obligation to cooperate can be found in article 74/22 of the Act of 15 December 1980 on the entry, residence, establishment and removal of foreigners (more information on the website of the Immigration Office (IO) - <https://dofi.ibz.be/nl/documentation/wetgeving> or <https://dofi.ibz.be/fr/documentation/legislation> ; as of now, there is no English translation available.

This **obligation to cooperate** implies that you:

- cooperate with your identification and that of your accompanying family members by providing the necessary elements, including surname and first name(s), nationality/nationalities, place and date of birth, countries of origin and/or previous residence, travel

itineraries, travel documents (e.g. identity card, passport) and biometric data (passport photograph, finger and palm prints);

- cooperate in obtaining travel documents, by going to the relevant authorities (e.g. embassy, consulate);
- communicate the address of effective residence and contact details (e.g. telephone number, email address) to the IO;
- appear at appointments with the IO or other competent authorities;
- respond to requests for information from the IO;
- remain contactable and available to the IO;
- deposit identity and travel documents with the IO if requested to do so;
- submit medical documents and cooperate with medical examinations when necessary.

The decision or invitation will specify where you must present yourself or how you can provide information to the IO to fulfil your cooperation obligation. Depending on your personal situation, different places or contact details may be suggested to you. You may also be asked to provide your address, contact details and other information at the time of the reception of your decision. You may also be asked to provide this information to a specific IO service. This, again, depends on your personal situation.

If no specific service is mentioned, you can send the information by registered mail to the *Algemene Directie Dienst Vreemdelingenzaken, Pachecolaan 44, 1000 Brussel*, mentioning the wording "**obligation to cooperate**" in your letter.

### What are the consequences if you do not cooperate?

Failure to cooperate in this procedure will impact the implementation and organisation of the return, removal, transfer or refolement procedure. This may have the following consequences:

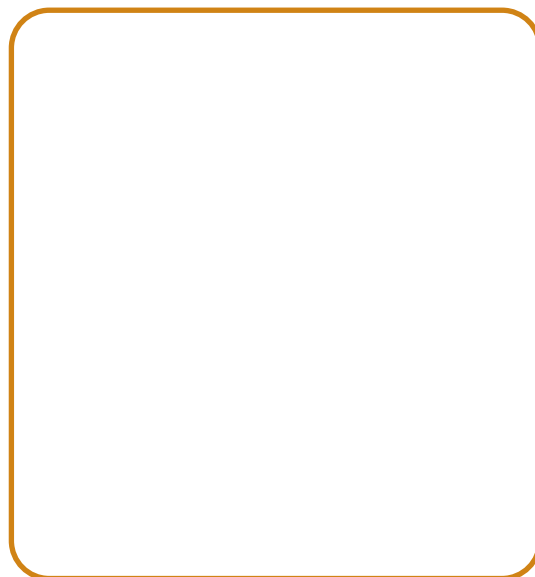
- a **preventive measure** may be imposed, insofar as you are within its scope;
- the Immigration Office may decide to **detain** you in a detention centre (for adults) or a residential

unit (for families with minor children), because a risk of absconding is established and it is suspected that a less coercive measure would not be effective;

- this element can be taken into account for the **period of the entry** ban if imposed;
- in a transfer procedure, the **transfer period may be extended** because you are deemed to have absconded.

The following preventive measures may be imposed :

- the presentation or deposit of identity or travel documents to the competent authority;
- the obligation to report to police services or the Immigration Office at certain/specific times;
- the designation (by the competent authorities) of a mandatory place of residence.



R.E.: Immigration Office - Boulevard Pacheco 44 - 1000 Bruxelles



**You are obliged to cooperate when you receive a decision which orders you to leave the territory**