



Visa measures

Suspension of the EU's Visa Facilitation Agreement with Russia

On 9 September 2022, the Council agreed to fully suspend the EU's Visa Facilitation Agreement with Russia. The full suspension affects all categories of travellers coming to the EU for a short stay. This means that:

- Russian citizens no longer enjoy privileged access to the EU and face a lengthier, more expensive and more difficult visa application process
- Member States have wide discretion in processing short-stay visa applications from Russian citizens and can ensure greater scrutiny of Russian nationals wanting to travel to the EU
- the EU will remain open to certain categories of Russian visa applicants travelling for essential purposes, including family members of EU citizens, journalists, dissidents and civil society representatives
- Russian travel documents issued in, or to persons resident in, Russian-occupied regions in Ukraine – or breakaway territories in Georgia – will not be accepted as valid travel documents for obtaining a visa or crossing the borders of the Schengen area

Stricter rules on visas for Russian nationals

In November 2025, the Commission [adopted stricter rules on visas](#) for Russian nationals, in view of increased security risks stemming from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, including the weaponisation of migration, acts of sabotage and potential misuse of visas.

Following this decision, Russian nationals are no longer able to receive multiple-entry visas. This means that Russian nationals will have to apply for a new visa each time they plan to travel to the EU, allowing for close and frequent scrutiny of applicants to mitigate any potential security risk.

A comprehensive approach to sanctions

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