Question for written answer E-000860/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: The need to amend the Schengen Visa Code to prevent Russian war criminals from entering the EU.

Behind every brutal war crime committed in Ukraine stands a perpetrator. On a political level, Vladimir Putin, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court, is culpable. The ideologists who advocate a Russian empire and an imperial Russia also bear significant responsibility. Nevertheless, the atrocities – symbolised by the crimes in Bucha and Irpin – are the work of individual Russian soldiers. For three years, they have been engaging in the brutal murder of civilians and the vicious rape and execution of prisoners of war.

The scale of these crimes shows that this is a conscious and deliberate policy, brutally carried out by tens of thousands of soldiers. Holding them accountable requires identifying the perpetrators. It is equally important to prevent them from entering the territory of the European Union, where they could pose a threat to its citizens.

The main document that allows for a preliminary verification that the visa applicant has not played an active role in the criminal aggression against Ukraine, or in the crimes committed in Syria or Africa, is the military identity card. This document is mandatory for every adult Russian citizen, and it contains the details of the holder's military service, promotions, awards and membership of specific units.

1. How many visas have been issued to Russians by individual EU and Schengen countries since February 2022?

2. How does the EU verify that there are no depraved murderers and war criminals among the Russians who are allowed to enter its territory, including for transit purposes?

3. Does the Commission intend to address this problem, for example by amending the Schengen Visa Code and introducing a requirement to attach a military identity card to visa applications?

Submitted: 26.2.2025