

EN
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Answer given by Ms Johansson
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.11.2024)

Since August 2024, the Commission has been in close contact with Hungary regarding the extension of the 'National Card' scheme to citizens of Russia and Belarus. It reminded Hungary of the need to uphold enhanced standards of scrutiny and vigilance with regard to the entry of Russian nationals into the Schengen area. This also includes checking whether an individual poses a threat to public policy, internal security, public health or the international relations of any Member State. Furthermore, the Commission has issued guidelines on the issuance of visa and controls of Russian citizens at the external borders¹, which emphasise intensive individual scrutiny in assessing the potential heightened risk posed by the entry of Russian nationals.

During the exchanges that took place in September 2024, Hungary stressed their commitment to ensuring the security of the Schengen area. On 15 October 2024, Hungary sent additional replies, which the Commission will now assess in view of continuing its dialogue with the Hungarian authorities.

The Commission remains of the firm opinion, as explained by the Commissioner for Home Affairs at the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) on 4 September 2024, that providing any beneficial treatment to nationals of two hostile states at a time when security risks are high is not appropriate and the Commission strongly urges Hungary to revise its policy.

¹ C(2022) 6596 final.