

EN
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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.5.2025)

Following the suspension of the visa facilitation agreement between the EU and Russia in September 2022¹, the Commission presented updated guidelines to Member States on visa procedures as well as on border controls for Russian citizens at the EU's external borders². The guidelines call for reinforced security scrutiny when issuing visas to Russian citizens and thorough checks at the EU external borders.

At the end of 2024, the Commission conducted an evaluation of the application of the guidelines which has shown that most Member States have implemented the guidelines regarding visa issuance in Russia. There was a sharp decrease in the overall number of visas issued to Russian citizens (from 4 million in 2019 to 0.5 million in 2023). Member States indicated that they apply additional security checks on Russian visa applicants, in particular those not having an essential reason to travel to the EU. They also confirmed that they verify in the Schengen Information System whether the applicant is a person for whom an alert has been issued for the purpose of refusing entry.

The list of supporting documents to be submitted by applicants in the Russian Federation for short-stay visa was updated in September 2024³. While the revised list does not explicitly feature military identity cards, it increased documentary requirements to take account of the heightened security risks posed by Russian applicants and recalls that consulates may request additional documents during the examination of a visa application, in accordance with Article 21(8) of the Visa Code⁴.

¹ Council Decision (EU) 2022/1500 of 9 September 2022 on the suspension in whole of the application of the Agreement between the European Community and the Russian Federation on the facilitation of the issuance of visas to the citizens of the European Union and the Russian Federation; OJ L 234I, 9.9.2022, p. 1–3.

² Communication from the Commission 1. Updating guidelines on general visa issuance in relation to Russian applicants following Council Decision (EU) 2022/1500 of 9 September 2022 on the suspension in whole of the application of the Agreement between the European Community and the Russian Federation on the facilitation of the issuance of visas to the citizens of the European Union and the Russian Federation; and 2. Providing guidelines on controls of Russian citizens at the external borders; Brussels, 30.9.2022, C(2022) 7111 final.

³ COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 11.9.2024 amending Implementing Decision C(2016) 3347 as regards the list of supporting documents to be submitted by applicants in the Russian Federation for short-stay visas; Brussels, 11.9.2024, C(2024) 6136 final.

⁴ Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code), OJ L 243, 15.9.2009, p. 1–58.