

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001874/25
to the Commission
Marcin Sypniewski (ESN)
(12 May 2025)**

Subject: Possibility of suspending visa-free travel for Georgian citizens because of the threat from organised crime

In recent months, we have seen increased activities by Georgian organised crime groups in Poland and other EU Member States. According to data from the Polish authorities, 3 129 crimes were committed by foreign nationals in 2024, of which 532 were attributed to Georgian nationals. Experts point out that these groups act brutally and indiscriminately, often using firearms and physical violence against their victims.

Georgian citizens enjoy visa-free travel, which allows them to enter the Schengen area for up to 90 days without needing a visa. Unfortunately, some people abuse this privilege to commit crimes, and this poses a serious threat to public security.

In this connection:

1. Is the Commission considering the possibility of temporarily suspending visa-free travel for Georgian citizens if a serious threat to public order and security in the Member States is identified?
2. What monitoring and impact assessment mechanisms are currently applied by the Commission in respect of visa-free countries such as Georgia?
3. Is the Commission planning to introduce additional measures or procedures to prevent abuse of visa-free travel, particularly in connection with the activities of organised crime groups?

Submitted: 12.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(22 September 2025)**

In accordance with Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1806⁽¹⁾ (the ‘Visa regulation’) the Commission monitors the continuous compliance by visa-free third countries of specific requirements used to assess the appropriateness of granting visa liberalisation. The results are published in Visa Suspension Mechanism Reports. The latest (seventh) report, adopted on 6 December 2024, included several recommendations addressed to Georgia⁽²⁾. The eighth report is due for adoption in the fourth quarter of 2025.

The Visa regulation foresees the possibility to suspend the visa exemption of a third country where there is ‘an increased risk or imminent threat to the public policy or internal security of Member States, in particular a substantial increase in serious criminal offences, linked to the nationals of that third country, substantiated by objective, concrete and relevant information and data provided by the competent authorities’. In such circumstances a Member State may notify to the Commission and request the activation of the suspension mechanism.

On 27 January 2025 the EU decided to partially suspend the Visa Facilitation Agreement between the EU and Georgia to end the visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and service passports. Subsequently and following guidelines issued by the Commission, 12 Member States have imposed since then a visa requirement for holders of diplomatic and service passports issued by Georgia.

In October 2023, the Commission submitted a proposal to revise Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 to modernise and strengthen the visa suspension mechanism to prevent the abuse of visa-free travel. The European Parliament and the Council agreed on the revised text in June 2025. It should enter into force in November 2025.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (codification); ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1806/oj>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2024%3A571%3AFIN>.