

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003605/25
to the Council
Thierry Mariani (PSE)
(17 September 2025)

Subject: Partial suspension of the visa facilitation agreement for holders of Georgian diplomatic passports

In January 2025, the Council decided to partially suspend the visa facilitation agreement for holders of Georgian diplomatic passports, on the grounds of an alleged 'threat to public order'. However, the grounds for suspension provided for in the agreement would appear at variance with the reasons given by the Union to justify this partial suspension. In its decision of 27 January 2025, the Council states that '[i]n order to protect the public order in the Member States and in the Union, it is appropriate and proportionate that Member States require a visa from Georgian citizens holding valid diplomatic passports who travel to the Union, as those persons represent interests which are contrary to those that led the Union to conclude the Facilitation Agreement in the first place'.

1. In these circumstances, how does the Council justify such a decision, which is clearly based on contradictory grounds?
2. Does this measure not primarily reflect a political motive, with the aim of using the suspension as a means of exerting pressure on certain internal processes in Georgia?
3. Lastly, does the Council consider that this objective has actually been achieved?

Submitted: 17.9.2025

Reply
(8 December 2025)

Under Article 14(5) of the Agreement between the European Union and Georgia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas, each Party is entitled to suspend the Agreement in whole or in part for reasons of public order, the protection of national security or the protection of public health.

The Council found that actions taken by Georgia breached the fundamental principles on which the Facilitation Agreement was concluded and went against the interests of the Union and its Member States.

The Council therefore found it appropriate and proportionate, in order to protect public order in the Member States and in the Union, that Member States require a visa from Georgian citizens holding valid diplomatic passports who travel to the Union, as those persons represent interests that are contrary to those that led the Union to conclude the Facilitation Agreement in the first place.
