

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003606/25
to the Commission
Thierry Mariani (PSE)
(17 September 2025)**

Subject: Visa suspension mechanism for Georgian nationals

In July 2025, the Commission sent a letter to Georgia requesting an update on implementation of the recommendations made in the seventh Visa Suspension Mechanism Report, setting a deadline in August.

The letter was sent the day before the Foreign Affairs Council of 15 July 2025, coinciding with public statements by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and a number of EU ministers. The situation has prompted a media campaign in Georgia that seeks to attribute full responsibility to the government.

1. Why was this move made shortly before the Georgian municipal elections due to take place in October 2025, and against a backdrop of public statements by EU officials that could fuel a campaign clearly targeting the government?
2. Does the Commission acknowledge the risk of the visa exemption regime being used for political leverage, even though the regime was introduced thanks to complex reforms carried out by the Georgian Government with the EU's support?
3. Finally, given that a possible suspension would primarily affect Georgian citizens — rather than their government — by restricting their access to the European area, how does the Commission justify its position?

Submitted: 17.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(27 October 2025)**

1. The letter of 14 July 2025 was sent in connection with an analysis of Georgia's contribution to the eighth Visa Suspension Mechanism Report, which is due to be adopted in December 2025. The letter also drew on other information gathered in that context, which showed that Georgia had not followed the recommendations set out in the seventh report.
 2. Georgia obtained exemption from the visa requirement in 2017, following a visa liberalisation dialogue. This arrangement will remain in force only if Georgia continues to honour its commitments.
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