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Answer given by Ms Kos

on behalf of the European Commission

(12.2.2026)

In December 2023, the European Council granted Georgia candidate status on the understanding that the relevant reforms (i.e. the nine steps) set out in the Commission recommendations of 8 November 2023 were taken¹. In view of the developments in Georgia, the European Council concluded in June² and October 2024³ that the authorities' course of action jeopardised Georgia's EU path, de facto leading to a halt of the accession process.

Visa-free travel to the EU is a conditional benefit, contingent upon the fulfilment of specific criteria set out in Article 1 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1806⁴, including the obligation to uphold and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Commission issues a yearly report to monitor the EU's visa-free regimes with third countries.

In its eighth Visa Suspension Mechanism Report adopted on 19 December 2025⁵, the Commission identified that Georgia had not addressed the recommendations from the Seventh Suspension Mechanism Report⁶ regarding compliance with visa liberalisation benchmarks and instead further regressed in key areas of governance and human rights. The report concluded that given the systemic and deliberate nature of the democratic backsliding in Georgia, the Commission will consider appropriate measures under the revised Visa Suspension Mechanism. According to the new rules, in the first phase, the visa suspension could target holders of diplomatic, service and official passports. In the second stage, the suspension could be extended to the entire population if issues are not addressed by the Georgian authorities. Ultimately, Georgia could lose its visa free status entirely and be transferred to Annex I of the Visa Regulation 2018/ 1806 (visa-required third countries list)⁷.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_5633.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/28/european-council-conclusions-27-june-2024/>.

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/10/17/european-council-conclusions-17-october-2024/>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1806/oj/eng>.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0792&qid=1768565258267>.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2024%3A571%3AFIN>.

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1806/oj/eng>.