

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003627/25
to the Commission
Krzysztof Brejza (PPE)
(18 September 2025)**

Subject: Abuse of diplomatic status by Russia and Belarus for intelligence gathering and destabilising activities in the EU

In the light of the recent arrests in Romania and Poland, which revealed the activities of a Belarusian and Russian spy network, serious questions arise regarding the credibility and role of diplomats in these Member States. There is growing evidence to suggest that employees of Russian and Belarusian diplomatic missions may be using their status for purposes contrary to the principles of international relations, including for conducting intelligence activities and fueling tensions.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission recognise the growing problem of Russian and Belarusian diplomatic missions being used to conduct espionage and destabilising activities in the Member States?
2. Are specific restrictions being considered, such as tightening visa procedures in the Schengen area for diplomats from these countries, to minimise the risk to the internal security of the EU?

Submitted: 18.9.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(4 December 2025)**

In 2022, 19 diplomats from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the EU were declared *personae non-gratae* for engaging in activities contrary to their diplomatic status, in breach of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. This decision was taken in response to Russia's disruptive actions against the interests and security of the EU and the Member States ⁽¹⁾.

Moreover, the European External Action Service and the Commission implemented measures to permanently assess the level of the threat.

The European External Action Service and the Commission are aware of several recent cases where Member States have declared diplomats from the Russian Federation and Belarus *personae non-gratae* for engaging in activities contrary to their diplomatic status.

Within the Schengen area and when traveling to a Member State other than that of their accreditation, Council regulation (EU) 2025/2033 of 23 October 2025 ⁽²⁾ establishes a prior notification mechanism for Russian diplomats and consular officers, as well as for members of the administrative and technical staff or of the service staff of diplomatic missions or consular posts of Russia, and for their family members.

That prior notification mechanism aims at ensuring the awareness of Member States of related movements, against a backdrop of increasing hostile intelligence activities that support Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

The said Regulation also provides that Member States willing to do so may impose an authorisation requirement for travel to their territories of such individuals, based on visas or residence permits issued by another State.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/russia-european-union-declared-19-diplomats-personae-non-gratae_en.

⁽²⁾ Council regulation (EU) 2025/2033 of 23 October 2025 amending Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202502033.