

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000939/26  
to the Commission  
Fabrice Leggeri (Pfe), Tom Vandendriessche (Pfe)  
(6 March 2026)**

*Subject:* EU Legal Gateway and its connection to the issuance of Schengen visas

The EU is committed to establishing a ‘European Legal Gateway Office’ in India, with information and communication technologies (ICT) as a primary focus. This ‘one-stop hub’ will serve as a ‘digital platform and operational centre’ intended to inform potential applicants of Indian nationality about legal migration channels and support their travel to the EU as part of a pilot phase lasting approximately 26 months.

It is also reported in the press that the European Union is opening this new office in New Delhi in order to accelerate the issuance of Schengen visas for ICT specialists. The office would be the first of its kind in a partner country.

These commitments are part of the EU strategy to implement legal migration mechanisms with third countries.

1. Can the Commission state whether, in the immediate or long term, this ‘gateway’ will amount to a visa office? Can it make clear the legal basis for the office, how it will be funded, who will work there and where it will be hosted?
2. What relationship is envisaged between this new visa office of the Commission and the consulates of EU or Schengen Member States in India and the EU Delegation to India?

Submitted: 6.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission  
(22 May 2026)**

An EU-India memorandum of understanding on a comprehensive framework of cooperation on mobility (MoU) was signed on 27 January 2026 <sup>(1)</sup>.

In this context, the European Legal Gateway Office pilot in India <sup>(2)</sup> will facilitate safe, legal, and well-informed mobility from India to Member States in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector.

Through a dedicated office in India, a support office in the EU and an accompanying digital tool, the European Legal Gateway Office pilot will provide clear and reliable information on mobility pathways and their various skills and qualification requirements in the EU to Indian students, researchers, and professionals in the ICT sector. It will also support EU-based employers and higher education institutions to engage with Indian talent.

The European Legal Gateway Office pilot will not be issuing any type of visas, as this is a competence of the Member States. To obtain a visa, third-country nationals, including those benefiting from the services of the European Legal Gateway Office pilot, will need to undergo national immigration procedures, including security checks.

There is no intention for the European Legal Gateway Office pilot in India to act as a visa office; it will instead provide information about visa requirements and procedures to interested Indian nationals.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7308-2026-INIT/en/pdf>.

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/launch-european-legal-gateway-office-pilot\\_en?s=167](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/launch-european-legal-gateway-office-pilot_en?s=167).