

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000585/26
to the Commission
Malik Azmani (Renew)
(11 February 2026)**

Subject: Implementation and effectiveness of EU visa restrictions for Russian citizens

Recent media reports ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ indicate that Russian citizens continue to travel to the EU for holidays, including to destinations such as the French Alps, despite Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine. This situation calls into question the credibility of the EU's visa policy towards Russia.

In response to similar concerns in the past, the Commission introduced stricter visa measures in November 2025, including increasing the scrutiny of Russian nationals' applications and ending multiple-entry visas, with limited exceptions for journalists and human rights defenders. However, these recent reports raise serious concerns about the effectiveness of these restrictions, as they suggests that Russian nationals may still obtain Schengen visas without major obstacles.

1. What is the Commission's view on these media reports?
2. How does the Commission ensure that these visa restrictions are applied consistently and effectively across all Member States, in particular by national consular authorities, to prevent such incidents in the future?
3. Which concrete additional measures is the Commission considering to prevent such incidents from recurring, including a possible general suspension of Schengen visas for Russian nationals?

Submitted: 11.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(7 April 2026)**

Since Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU has taken unprecedented visa measures, including the full suspension of the Visa Facilitation Agreement with Russia ⁽¹⁾; adopting guidelines to promote a common approach regarding examination of visa applications for Russian nationals, including a particularly strict approach for applicants traveling for tourism purposes ⁽²⁾; and adopting restrictive rules on issuing of multiple-entry visas to Russian nationals, ensuring that applicants are scrutinised thoroughly and frequently ⁽³⁾. The Commission is closely monitoring the application of these visa measures by Member States.

In its EU Visa Policy Strategy ⁽⁴⁾, adopted on 29 January 2026, the Commission has noted that the continued issuance of visas for non-essential travel purposes such as tourism, leisure or unofficial visits by nationals from hostile third countries could pose serious risks to EU's security, public policy or international relations.

To address these risks, the Commission announced in the strategy that it will consider proposing a new category of targeted restrictive visa measures, which could allow for the general suspension, rejection or restriction of Schengen visa applications submitted by nationals of such third countries, in a proportionate manner and with the necessary safeguards.

¹ <https://www.thetimes.com/world/europe/article/decadent-debauched-denounced-rich-russians-are-in-firing-line-mnsb007v6>.

² <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15496133/Putins-goddaughter-Russias-super-rich-celebrities-seen-partying-Europes-exclusive-resorts-Ukraine-war-rages-on.html>.

³ <https://www.ad.nl/buitenland/russische-elite-feest-in-frans-skioord-courchevel-en-dat-valt-slecht-bij-thuisfront-schamen-jullie-je-niet~a38704f3/?referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F>.

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision (EU) 2022/1500 of 9 September 2022 on the suspension in whole of the application of the Agreement between the European Community and the Russian Federation on the facilitation of the issuance of visas to the citizens of the European Union and the Russian Federation.

⁽²⁾ C(2022) 7111 final.

⁽³⁾ C(2025) 7552 final.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2026) 43 final.