

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-002150/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Inese Vaidere (PPE)
(27 May 2026)

Subject: Rising numbers of Schengen visas issued to Russian nationals despite the EU's policy on restricting travel

Despite Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, the number of Schengen visas issued to Russian nationals increased in 2025, including a significant number of tourist visas. France, Italy and Spain accounted for the majority of visas issued. This raises serious moral, political and security concerns.

Public opinion polls inside Russia continue to show broad support for the actions of the Russian army in Ukraine. At the same time, those travelling to the EU for tourism are predominantly wealthier Russian citizens who benefit from and are often closely connected to the current regime. Restricting tourist visas would not only strengthen the EU's consistency and solidarity with Ukraine, but could also serve as an effective instrument to reduce public support in Russia for the war.

In 2022, the EU suspended the Visa Facilitation Agreement with Russia and recommended limiting non-essential travel by Russian nationals.

Given this context:

1. How does the Commission assess the continued increase in tourist visas issued to Russian nationals?
2. What mechanisms are in place to monitor the implementation of the EU recommendations on limiting non-essential travel from Russia?
3. Does the Commission support introducing further EU-wide restrictions on issuing tourist visas to Russian nationals while Russia's war against Ukraine continues?

Submitted: 27.5.2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(25 June 2026)

Since the outset of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU has responded with unprecedented unity and strength. The EU's visa policy has played a key part in this response.

From suspending the Visa Facilitation Agreement ⁽¹⁾ to tightening rules on multiple-entry visas, the EU has made clear that the privilege of traveling to the EU cannot be taken for granted by those who threaten its security.

As a result of these measures, Schengen visas issued to Russian nationals dropped significantly compared to before Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine: from 4 million in 2019 to slightly more than 600 000 in 2025.

Regarding the Commission implementing decision of 6 November 2025 ⁽²⁾ restricting the issuance of multiple-entry visas, a significant drop in the number of multiple-entry visas issued to Russian nationals was registered since its adoption showing that Member States are applying the provisions of the Commission implementing act in a consistent manner.

Together with the Local Schengen Cooperation in Moscow, the Commission continues to monitor the implementation of the introduced visa measures to ensure their consistent implementation, while respecting Member States' competence for issuing short-stay visas.

The Commission continues to explore all tools available within its competence to restrict the issuing of short-stay visas to Russian nationals due to potential security risks they pose.

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision (EU) 2022/1500 of 9.9.2022 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 (2025) 7552 final.