



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

The Director-General (acting)

Brussels
HOME/BG

Subject: Questionnaire on the implementation of the guidelines on general visa issuance in relation to Russian applicants addressed to the Member States and the Schengen Associated Countries

Dear Ambassador,

As announced during the meeting of the Visa Working Party on 18 September 2024, the Commission services prepared the questionnaire (attached to this letter) with a list of questions related to the implementation of the guidelines ⁽¹⁾ by the Member States' and by the Schengen Associated Countries' consulate offices.

The guidelines are essential to ensure coherence, clarity and transparency during the visa procedure concerning citizens of the Russian Federation in any given consular location. Taking into account the overall context of the unprovoked and unjustified military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and the need to promote a harmonised approach to the examination of visa applications in the Russian Federation as well as common solutions within the Schengen area, it is necessary to ensure that the guidelines on the procedures and conditions for issuing visas to Russian applicants are fully implemented by Member States.

*H.E. Ambassador Sillaste-Elling
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⁽¹⁾ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION 1. Updating guidelines on general visa issuance in relation to Russian applicants following 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; and 2. Providing guidelines on controls of Russian citizens at the external borders (C(2022) 7111 final, 30.9.2022).

Therefore, I would appreciate if your services could provide your replies to the attached questionnaire by email directly to DG HOME.B4 - Visa Policy Unit (HOME-NOTIFICATIONS-B4@ec.europa.eu), at the latest by 4 November 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Beate GMINDER

Annex: the questionnaire