

To:

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign and Security Affairs/ Vice-President of the Commission Josep Borrell

Foreign Affairs Minister of the Czech Republic Jan Lipavský

Brussels, 12 September 2022

Dear HR/VP Borrell,
Dear Minister Lipavsky,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, take note of the conclusions from the informal meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Council on 31st of August about the suspension of the visa facilitation agreement between the EU and Russian Federation from 2007. This will, hopefully, reduce the number of tourists visas issued to Russian citizens to the EU and contribute to the European security.

This decision solely, however, will not address many social and security concerns that EU Members States experience in relation with the current situation of Russian citizens in the Schengen area.

A regional visa ban is a good, but partial solution. The EU as a community and a block of states should learn the lessons from the experience of bordering countries with Russia, like Finland, the Baltic states and Poland. The knowledge, as well as political and security concerns of these countries is a reasonable and a legitimate basis for an EU-wide agreement for a Russian tourists visa ban.

Since the EU-wide agreement on a visa-ban for all Russian citizens could not be reached at the recent informal meeting, we suggest that the Council considers another decision at the closest convenience. A compromise may consist of a decision to impose a ban for all members of Russian and Belarusian armed forces, including staff and family members, as well as for central administration clerks and their families. Such decision would send a clear signal that the social groups that are directly or indirectly related to the Russian state war efforts are not allowed to enter into the EU territory and take advantage of European freedoms and prosperity.

We trust that the debate on that matter is not yet finalised in the Council and that the new arguments and solutions may be considered.

Sincerely,

Petras Auštrevičius, Renew Europe, Lithuania
Andrzej Halicki, EPP, Poland
Beata Mazurek, ECR, Poland
Jiří Pospíšil, EPP, Czechia
Witold Jan Waszczykowski, ECR, Poland
Jerzy Buzek, EPP, Poland
Ivan Štefanec, EPP, Slovakia
Milan Zver, EPP, Slovenia
Dace Melbārde, NA, Latvia
Bart Groothuis, Renew Europe, Netherlands
Janina Ochojska, EPP, Poland
Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, S&D, Finland
Anna Fotyga, ECR, Poland
Vladimír Bilčík, EPP, Slovakia
Anna Zalewska, ECR, Poland
Tomáš Zdechovský, EPP, Czechia
Janusz Lewandowski, EPP, Poland
Radosław Sikorski, EPP, Poland
Róża Thun und Hohenstein, Renew Europe, Poland
Adam Sebastian Jarubas, EPP, Poland
Krzysztof Hetman, EPP, Poland
Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, ECR, Poland
Jaak Madison, ID, Estonia
Juozas Olekas, S&D, Lithuania
Andrus Ansip, Renew Europe, Estonia
Peter Pollák, EPP, Slovakia
Patrik Jaki, ECR, Poland
Adam Bielan, ECR, Poland
Bronis Ropė, Greens/EFA, Lithuania
Antoni Comín, NA, Spain
Carles Puigdemont, NA, Spain
Clara Ponsatí, NA, Spain
Jarosław Duda, EPP, Poland
Romana Tomc, EPP, Slovenia
Urmas Paet, Renew Europe, Estonia
Rasa Jucknevičienė, EPP, Lithuania

Łukasz Kohut, S&D, Poland
Nicolae Stefanuta, Renew Europe, Romania
Tomasz Frankowski, EPP, Poland
Elżbieta Łukaciejewska, EPP, Poland
Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Renew, Germany
Ausra Maldeikiene, EPP, Lithuania
Ewa Kopacz, EPP, Poland
Karen Melchior, Renew Europe, Denmark
Liudas Mazylis, EPP, Lithuania
Ivan Štefanec, EPP, Slovakia
Vlad GHEORGHE, Renew Europe, Romania
Marian-Jean Marinescu, EPP, Romania