Council of the European Union
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NOTE

From:	Commission services
To:	Visa Working Party
Subject:	Georgia Visa Suspension: LTTs

Delegations will find in the Annex the lines to take on the suspension of the visa exemption for the holders of Georgian diplomatic, services and official passports, as transmitted by the Commission services.

Lines to take for Member states on the Commission Implementing Regulation on the temporary suspension of the visa exemption for Georgian nationals holding diplomatic, service or official passports

Key messages

- The Commission has decided to suspend visa-free travel for Georgian holders of diplomatic, service and official passports as of 6 March and for an initial period of 12 months.
- This decision builds on the findings of the Visa Suspension Mechanism reports of 2024 and 2025, and EU's repeated calls for action that have been left unanswered by the Georgian authorities.
- The last visa suspension mechanism report is clear that Georgia is in breach of the benchmarks related to democracy and fundamental rights of the visa-free travel regime granted by the EU. This decision follows the approval by Member States.
- This is the first time the new Visa Suspension Mechanism is used.
- Visa liberalisation aims to enhance people-to-people contacts and promote shared values, including respect for human rights and democratic principles. The Commission considers that the actions of the Georgian authorities undermine these principles on which visa liberalisation is based.
- The Commission considers that the actions of the Georgian authorities undermine these principles on which visa liberalisation is based.
- The actions of the Georgian authorities are inconsistent with the norms and values of the Union. They hamper the steady development of economic, humanitarian, cultural, scientific and other ties between the Union and Georgia.
- With visa requirement reimposed at EU level, bilateral visa exemptions for holders of diplomatic, service and official passports are no longer possible.
- What this measure means in practice: Holders of service and diplomatic passports coming to the Schengen area on an official mission must use these passports and therefore must get a visa to travel. This measure does not represent a targeted individual sanction or a Schengen ban.
- We have received guidelines from the Commission: our consular authorities and border guards will ensure the effective implementation of this decision.

Next steps

- The temporary suspension will last 12 months. After this period, the Commission can extend the duration or expand the scope of the measures [by delegated act].
- We encourage the Georgian authorities to seize the opportunity and to take corrective measures.
- If Georgian authorities fail to address the issues, in the second phase, the suspension can be prolonged or even extended to all Georgian citizens.
- It is fully up to the Georgian authorities to redress this situation.