



Brussels, 11.9.2024
C(2024) 6136 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 11.9.2024

amending Implementing Decision C(2016) 3347 as regards the list of supporting documents to be submitted by applicants in the Russian Federation for short-stay visas

(Only the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish texts are authentic)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas¹, and in particular Article 14(5a) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 lays down the procedures and conditions for issuing visas for intended stays on the territory of the Member States that do not exceed 90 days in any 180-day period ('short-stay visas').
- (2) Article 48(1a), point (a), of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 provides that Member States and the Commission are to cooperate in order to prepare harmonised lists of supporting documents to be submitted by visa applicants, taking into account article 14 of that Regulation.
- (3) Annex III to Commission Implementing Decision C(2016) 3347² sets out the list of supporting documents to be submitted by applicants in the Russian Federation for short-stay visas. That list is based upon the provisions 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 Federation³ ('the visa facilitation Agreement').
- (4) Following Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine, on 9 September 2022 the Council decided⁴ to suspend in whole the application of the visa facilitation Agreement.
- (5) Following an assessment taking into account current local circumstances, including the suspension of the visa facilitation Agreement, the local Schengen cooperation has confirmed that the list of supporting documents to be submitted by visa applicants in

¹ OJ L 243, 15.9.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/810/oj>.

² Commission Implementing Decision C(2016) 3347 final of 6.6.2016 establishing the list of supporting documents to be presented by visa applicants in Iran, Iraq and the Russian Federation.

³ OJ L 129, 17.5.2007, p. 27.

⁴ 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 (OJ L 234I, 09.09.2022, p. 1–3, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/1500/oj>).

the Russian Federation needs to be revised. The revision introduces new requirements that allow for an assessment of applications in the context of heightened security and migratory risks. Travel purposes that have become obsolete have been deleted from the list. The Commission considers that it is necessary to adopt a new harmonised list of supporting documents to be used by visa applicants in Russia. A new harmonised list has been drawn up as a result of that assessment.

- (6) Implementing Decision C(2016) 3347 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (7) For applicants that are known to a consulate for their integrity and reliability, that consulate may, under certain conditions, waive the requirements set out in Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009, in accordance with Article 14(6) of that Regulation. In justified cases, consulates may also request additional documents during the examination of a visa application, in accordance with Article 21(8) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009.
- (8) Given that Denmark decided to implement Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 which builds upon the Schengen *acquis* in its national law, in accordance with Article 4 of Protocol No 22 on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Denmark is bound under international law to implement this Decision.
- (9) This Decision does not constitute a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* in which Ireland takes part, in accordance with Council Decision 2002/192/EC⁵; Ireland is therefore not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
- (10) As regards Iceland and Norway, this Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning of the Agreement concluded by the Council of the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the latter's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*⁶, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B, of Council Decision 1999/437/EC⁷.
- (11) As regards Switzerland, this Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning of the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*⁸, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B, of Decision 1999/437/EC, read in conjunction with Article 3 of Council Decision 2008/146/EC⁹.

⁵ Council Decision 2002/192/EC of 28 February 2002 concerning Ireland's request to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* (OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2002/192/oj>).

⁶ OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 36, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/1999/439\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/1999/439(1)/oj).

⁷ Council Decision 1999/437/EC of 17 May 1999 on certain arrangements for the application of the Agreement concluded by the Council of the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the association of those two States with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis* (OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 31, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1999/437/oj>).

⁸ OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 52, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2008/178\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2008/178(1)/oj).

⁹ Council Decision 2008/146/EC of 28 January 2008 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and

- (12) As regards Liechtenstein, this Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning of the Protocol signed between the European Union, the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the accession of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*¹⁰, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B, of Decision 1999/437/EC read in conjunction with Article 3 of Council Decision 2011/350/EU¹¹.
- (13) As regards Cyprus, this decision constitutes an act building upon, or otherwise relating to, the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning of Article 3(2) of the 2003 Act of Accession.
- (14) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 52(1) of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Annex III to Implementing Decision C(2016) 3347 is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

development of the Schengen *acquis* (OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2008/146/oj>).

¹⁰ OJ L 160, 18.6.2011, p. 21, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/prot/2011/349/oj>.

¹¹ Council Decision 2011/350/EU of 7 March 2011 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol between the European Union, the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the accession of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*, relating to the abolition of checks at internal borders and movement of persons (OJ L 160, 18.6.2011, p. 19, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2011/350/oj>).

Article 2

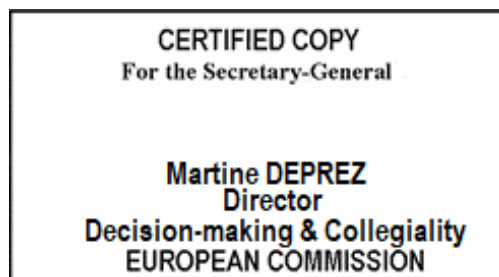
This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Estonia, the Hellenic Republic, the Kingdom of Spain, the French Republic, the Republic of Croatia, the Italian Republic, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, Romania, the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden.

Done at Brussels, 11.9.2024

For the Commission

Ylva JOHANSSON

Member of the Commission





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

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ANNEX

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to the

Commission Implementing Decision

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ANNEX

‘ANNEX III

List of supporting documents to be submitted by applicants in the Russian Federation for short-stay visas

I. General documents required from all applicants¹²

1. Proof of residence in the consular demarcation:

- **Russian citizens:** original and full copy (copy of all pages with entries) of the applicant's internal passport.
- **Citizens of other countries:** original and copy of the document proving the applicant's residence (valid residence permit or long-term visa).

2. Travel arrangements:

- Return ticket or reservation¹³ or another document confirming the means of transport, e.g. a contract with a transport company or a copy of the driver's registration certificate and driving license; documentation proving the right to use a motor vehicle or other means of transport, etc.
- Proof of accommodation (e.g. hotel reservation, lease, voucher).¹⁴ Not applicable if applicant's travel purpose is visiting family or friends and accommodation is covered with sponsorship form or written request from the host.

3. Proof of financial means:

- Bank statements showing bank operations over the last three months.
- Extract from the Russian Pension and Social Insurance Fund for the last 10 years (Сведения о трудовой деятельности, предоставляемые из информационных ресурсов Фонда пенсионного и социального страхования Российской Федерации). The document should be digitally signed.
- Letter of sponsorship, if the cost of the stay is covered by a sponsor:
 - The sponsorship form required by Member States concerned, or
 - If the Member State concerned does not have a national sponsorship form, the letter of sponsorship (dated and signed) containing the following information:
 - full name, date and place of birth of the applicant;
 - full name, date and place of birth of the sponsor, personal code issued by Member State concerned if applicable, address and

¹² Without prejudice to the rights conferred by Directive (EC) 2004/38 to family members of EU citizens.

¹³ If the reserved return ticket is not deemed sufficient, the applicant can be asked for a proof of payment thereof.

¹⁴ If the reserved accommodation is not deemed sufficient, the applicant can be asked for a proof of payment thereof.

- contact details of the sponsor and the link between the sponsor and the applicant;
 - destination and duration of the visit;
 - list of costs which are covered by the sponsor;
 - the sponsor's bank statement showing bank operations over the last three months.
- Copy of passport or national ID of sponsor, and copy of residence permit if not an EU citizen, if the sponsorship form does not contain the full personal information of the sponsor.

4. Additional requirements for minors

- Original and a copy of birth certificate.
- Power of Attorney of travel consent. Notary Power of Attorney must be signed by the parent or guardian who is not traveling or signed by both parents and guardians, if the minor travels unaccompanied. In latter case document must also include data of the adult who will be responsible for the minor during stay in Schengen territory.
- Proof of sole custody if applicable.
- Visa of accompanying parent.
- If the name and surname of the parent(s) are different from those on the child's birth certificate, the parent(s) must provide additional documents (marriage certificate or court order or any other documents evidencing a change of name or surname and confirming the child's link with the parent(s)).

5. Documents to be provided regarding the occupation of the applicant

Employees:

Letter from the employer, confirming:

- the employee's position and salary,
- date of employment and date of end of employment, if relevant, and
- salary slips for the last six months.

Individual entrepreneurs:

- Proof of economic activity (e.g. 2NDFL¹⁵ or 3NDFL form).
- Extract from trade/fiscal registry or certificate for individual business.

Pupils/students:

Proof of enrolment in school or university or a student ID (original and copy).

Pensioners:

Pension booklet (original and copy).

Unemployed persons:

¹⁵ NDFL: Acronym for the Russian tax return form

- A document proving the applicant's ties to Russia (i.e. vital statistics certificate, proof of property ownership).
- A copy of the work booklet's page with personal data and pages which show the holder's job history at least during last three years, if applicable.

II. List of documents to be submitted depending on the travel purpose

1. Visiting family and friends:

- Written and signed invitation from the host person.
- Copy of passport or national ID of host person, and copy of residence permit if not an EU citizen.
- Proof of family ties if applicable.

2. Official (members of official delegations):

- Letter (e.g. verbal note) issued by a competent Russian authority (e.g. MID¹⁶) confirming that the applicant is a member of its delegation travelling to the Member State.
- Copy of the official invitation.

3. Study (pupils, students, post-graduate students and accompanying teachers):

- Written request or certificate of enrolment or student card by the host university, academy, institute, college or school or certificate of the courses to be attended in the Member State.

4. Culture (participants in scientific, cultural and artistic activities):

- Written request from the host organization in the Member State on participation in such activities.

5. Sports (participants in international sports events and accompanying persons in their professional capacity):

- Written request from the host organization (competent authority, national sport federation or national Olympic committee), including information on the role of the persons.

6. Tourism

- Confirmation of the booking of an organized trip or any other appropriate document indicating the envisaged travel plans; if not applicable then itinerary with a written description of the planned journey.

¹⁶ MID: Ministry for Foreign Affairs

7. Business

7.1. Business - general

Official invitation from the inviting company containing the following information:

- personal data of the person invited (full name as in the passport, date of birth);
- purpose and duration of the visit;
- nature of the business;
- the full address of the company and contact persons;
- name and position of the person signing the invitation;
- person or entity who will bear the applicant's travel and living costs.

or

Other proof of purpose of stay (e.g. information on participation in conference, entrance ticket to trade fair, business correspondence, program of the business trip).

7.2. Business - drivers (international cargo and passengers):

- Written request from the Russian national association of carriers (ASMAP or RAS) or the national association of carriers of the Member State stating the purpose, duration and frequency of trips.
- Written request by companies registered in the Member State or in third countries providing for international road transportation, stating the purpose, itinerary, duration and frequency of the trips.
- Documents concerning the transport company: registration number, as required by the national law of the Member State or of the Russian Federation, and, if applicable, contract between a company established in the Russian Federation or in a third country and its partner company established in the Member States.
- Documents concerning the driver:
 - driver's license;
 - transport truck driving certificate;
 - copy of registration certificates of truck and trailer or bus;
 - license or permit for carrying out long-distance transportation of cargo or passengers.

7.3. Business - members of train, refrigerator and locomotive crews:

- Written request from the competent Russian railway company (OAO-RZD with its branches and OAO "Refservice") or a competent railway company of the Member State stating the purpose, duration and frequency of trips.

7.4. Business - seafarers:

- Full copy of the seaman's book.
- Copy of contract.

- Employment certificate from manning agency / crew management company.
- Invitation from shipping agency in the EU as well as from the Russian sending agency.
- The invitation letter from both mentioned agencies should be written on the company's official paper with stamp, signature, name and position of the authorized signatory, and should include the following detailed information:
 - complete identity of the seafarer (name, place and date of birth);
 - passport and Seafarer's Identity Document numbers, with date of issue and validity;
 - sailor's position on the vessel (in case of a group of sailors, this information can be included in a list signed, sealed and attached to the invitation letter);
 - name of the vessel;
 - port and date of boarding;
 - duration of the contract;
 - itinerary that the seafarer will follow to arrive to the Member State of destination/transit.

7.5. Business - journalists:

- A certificate or other document issued by a professional organization proving that the person is a qualified journalist.
- Letter from his/her employer stating that the purpose of the journey is to carry out journalistic work.

8. Medical reasons (persons travelling for medical reasons and their companions):

- Official document from the Russian health institution confirming the need for medical treatment and, if applicable, for the patient to be accompanied, as well as proof that sufficient financial means are available to pay for the treatment.
- Proof of deposit to meet the expenses of the medical treatment, if applicable.

9. Other - owners of property in the territory of the Member States and their close relatives:

- Relevant national document (e.g. recent extract from the real estate register, copy of the purchase contract/deed of sale, etc.) proving that the applicant owns the property in question.
- In cases of close relatives, proof of the relationship.

10. Other - short-term laborers/internship (if permissible with Schengen visa and relevant national law):

- Letter from the employer, employment contract and/or other document in accordance with the legislation of the Member State concerned.

11. Other - transit

If applicable, documents related to the onward journey to the final destination (visa or other entry permit for the third country of destination; tickets for onward journey).'