

## **The EU is discussing a ban on the issuance of Schengen visas to Russian citizens**

The issue of banning the issuance of Schengen visas to all Russians was submitted for discussion at the EU level as part of the seventh package of sanctions

The European Union is discussing a new package of sanctions against Russia, which includes a ban on the issuance of Schengen visas to Russian citizens as part of the seventh package of sanctions against Russia. This was announced yesterday at a briefing by the official representative of the government of Germany, Steffen Hebeshtreit, [according to RIA Novosti](#).

Hebeshtreit noted that there is no single position in the EU on this issue yet. According to him, the EU is currently in the process of discussing what the seventh package of sanctions should look like and what components it may contain.

Earlier, EU Minister for Integration and Migration Anders Igeman did not rule out that the EU could stop issuing visas to Russians. Such proposals were sent for discussion at the level of the European Union by the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Also, the Russian Foreign Ministry did not rule out such a possibility, as [we recently wrote about](#).

However, the official representative of the European Commission, Anita Hipper, argued that EU law does not provide for a single procedure for banning the issuance of short-stay visas to foreign citizens.

Estonia has already fulfilled its threats against the Russians and [closed the borders](#) for holders of tourist Schengen visas already issued in Estonia. The decision was announced by the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and comes into force on August 18, with exceptions – the ban does not apply to employees of diplomatic departments, persons entering Estonia on humanitarian grounds, as well as those whose close relatives have Estonian citizenship and a residence permit in Estonia.

However, it should be clarified that the ban applies only to holders of Schengen visas issued in Estonia. Holders of Schengen visas issued by other countries will still be able to enter the country. Also, Estonia-issued Schengen visas can still enter other Schengen countries.

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