

## Europe may stop issuing Schengen visas to Russians

The Russian Foreign Ministry does not rule out that EU countries may soon stop issuing Schengen visas for Russian citizens

The Russian Foreign Ministry did not rule out the possibility that [Russian citizens may soon lose the opportunity to receive tourist Schengen visas](#), said the director of the consular department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Ivan Volynkin in an interview with TASS.

According to him, the EU has repeatedly called for restrictions on the issuance of visas to Russian citizens.

In particular, the leaders of all four largest parliamentary groups have said that Finland should stop issuing new visas to Russian tourists, and [the Estonian Foreign Ministry has announced](#) that his department was preparing a proposal to suspend the issuance of tourist visas to Russian citizens at the EU level.

However, neither there are legislative changes regarding the issuance of Schengen visas by Finland yet, [according to the press service of the Finnish Embassy in Moscow](#), nor there is any suspension of the acceptance of documents and the issuance of visas at the moment.

At the moment, [the Czech Republic](#), Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and [Belgium](#) have completely or almost completely suspended the issuance of tourist visas to Russians. In addition to Finland, also Greece, Spain, Italy, Hungary, France continue to accept documents for tourist visas in Russia.

At the same time, it should be noted that the actual problems with obtaining Schengen visas have existed for quite a long time. Many of the visa centers now do not accept applications at all, and in a number of countries now you have to wait in line to submit documents for up to three months. According to the missions, this is due both to an increase in the number of applications amid the lifting of coronavirus restrictions, and to a [shortage of consular staff](#) due to the expulsion of diplomats by Russia.

Also, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry, although the ban on the issuance of electronic visas was lifted from July 15, 2022 due to the invalidation of the Order of the Government No. 635-a, [it is not yet planned to open the possibility of obtaining electronic visas to foreigners](#) "due to unfriendly actions of Europe."

Source: <http://www.tass.ru/>.

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