1. The European Commission has acted swiftly in mobilising visa measures as part of the broader package of sanctions towards Russia following the military aggression against Ukraine. On 25 February 2022, the Council adopted the Commission’s proposal on the partial suspension of the Visa Facilitation Agreement signed between the EU and the Russian Federation in 2006. The Council Decision suspends the possibility of visa-free travel for Russian holders of diplomatic passports, as well as the visa facilitations that Russian government officials and business people benefitted from the Visa Facilitation Agreement.

2. Under national law Member States already have significant leeway to decrease issuing long-stay visas and residence permits, or to revoke such documents that were previously granted. As for short-stay (Schengen) visas, the EU law governing them – the Visa Code – also provides for a procedure of revoking a visa whenever the conditions for issuing it are no longer met, on an individual basis. Restrictive measures on the prohibition to enter into, or transit through, territories of Member States for certain citizens of the Russian Federation were adopted. In this context, the Schengen Information System (SIS) contains alerts on the targeted citizens of the Russian Federation who are not entitled to enter into or stay in the Schengen Area. Categories for which visas should be issued include family members of EU citizens as well as humanitarian cases, including, fleeing Russian journalists and dissidents.