

The EU has [visa facilitation agreements](#) in place with certain non-EU countries. Under the **simplified visa regime**, non-EU citizens enjoy facilitated procedures (such as lower visa fees) to obtain a visa for the Schengen area.

Country	Visa facilitation agreement	Entry into force
Albania	Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Albania on the facilitation of the issuance of visas	01/01/2008
Armenia	Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas	01/01/2014
Azerbaijan	Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the facilitation of the issuance of visas	01/09/2014
Belarus	Agreement between the European Community and Belarus on the facilitation of the issuance of visas	01/07/2020
	Council Decision on the partial suspension of the application of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Belarus on the facilitation of the issuance of visas	12/11/2021
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Agreement between the European Community and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the facilitation of the issuance of visas	01/01/2008
Cape Verde	Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cape Verde on facilitating the issue of short-stay visas to citizens of the Republic of Cape Verde and of the European Union	01/12/2014
	Council Decision (EU) 2021/1831 of 7 October 2021 on the conclusion on behalf of the Union of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cape Verde amending the Agreement on facilitating the issue of short-stay visas to citizens of the Republic of Cape Verde and of the European Union	07/10/2021
Georgia	Agreement between the European Union and Georgia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas	01/03/2011
	Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova	01/07/2013
Moldova	(amending the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on the facilitation of the issuance of visas)	01/01/2008
	Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Montenegro on the facilitation of the issuance of visas	01/01/2008
North Macedonia	Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of North Macedonia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas	01/01/2008
Russian Federation	Agreement between the European Community and the Russian Federation on the facilitation of the issuance of visas	01/06/2007
	Council Decision (EU) 2022/1500 on the suspension in whole of the application of the Agreement between the European Community and the Russian Federation on the facilitation of	09/09/2022

Country	Visa facilitation agreement	Entry into force
	the issuance of visas to the citizens of the European Union and the Russian Federation	
Serbia	Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Serbia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas	01/01/2008
Ukraine	Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine (amending the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas)	01/07/2013 01/07/2013

However, visa facilitation agreements can be suspended if a country no longer satisfies the conditions of the agreement. What then applies are the general rules of the EU visa code.

Suspensions can be triggered by an EU country or by the European Commission. Currently, 2 agreements are suspended, those with:

- [Russia](#) (full suspension of facilitation agreement)
- [Belarus](#) (partial suspension of facilitation agreement).

Visa facilitation agreements are linked to [readmission agreements](#). Readmission agreements establish procedures for returning irregular migrants to the EU or non-EU country they came from (EU, non-EU nationals or stateless persons).

EU countries may also individually negotiate agreements on [local border](#) traffic with neighbouring non-EU countries. These agreements enable border residents of specific areas to cross the EU's external borders, under certain conditions, without having to obtain a visa.