

Delegation of the Russian Federation

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND HUMAN CONTACTS

To OSCE participating States:

- Promote the introduction of a simplified visa procedure, making it easier to obtain a visa;
- Develop the practice of granting multiple-entry visas to persons travelling for family, business, educational, scientific and cultural purposes. Transition to the use of long-term multiple-entry visas;
- Encourage cross-border mobility by, among other things, reducing visa fees;
- Use modern communication technologies to shorten the time required for visas to be issued and for residents of remote districts and regions to receive them;
- Make use of the experience of the European Union, the Schengen Agreement, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Eurasian Economic Community to ease the transition to a visa-free regime for certain categories of citizens, and then to abolish the visa regime;
- Simplify the procedure for registering citizens in their place of residence, and use, where possible, a registration procedure based on notification;
- Ensure that citizens with a temporary registration have access to medical services, education and social security;
- With a view to maintaining favourable conditions for the development of tourism, consider possible mechanisms for preserving bilateral visa-free regimes for countries that have acceded to multilateral agreements;
- Develop exchanges of information between countries, among other things, by using electronic databases, with a view to preventing illegal migration and suppressing organized crime and trafficking in human beings;
- Strive to eliminate the practice of imposing prohibitions on the free entry into OSCE participating States of academics, cultural activists and journalists, as punishment for the pursuit of their lawful activities.

To the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights:

- Conduct a review of the implementation by participating States of their commitments on freedom of movement across borders, in order to provide participating States, at their request and in accordance with the need, with technical assistance and advice in this sphere;
- Circulate information in time for the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on the progress achieved in OSCE participating States in simplifying visa formalities and introducing a visa-free regime for the general population as well as for certain categories of citizens;
- Promote the exchange of best practices in ensuring cross-border mobility and developing human contacts, among other things, by holding expert seminars, training sessions and round tables.