

Interior Ministry Proposes Tougher Migration Rules, New Requirements for Foreign Students

By MESSENGER STAFF

Georgia's Interior Ministry has proposed legislative amendments aimed at tightening migration regulations, introducing new requirements for foreign students, criminalizing fictitious marriages for residency purposes, and strengthening measures against illegal migration.

According to the ministry, the initiative "responds to modern migration challenges and aims to establish a more efficient, transparent, and secure system for regulating the presence of foreign nationals in Georgia."

The proposed amendments would require foreign students seeking admission to higher and vocational education institutions to submit an international language certificate or pass a foreign language or Georgian language examination. The legislation would also introduce "maximum quotas" for foreign student admissions and require educational institutions to enter information on foreign students into a unified database accessible to relevant state agencies.

The ministry said educational institutions could face administrative sanctions, including fines, restrictions on admitting foreign students, or the revocation of authorization for violating student-recording requirements.

The amendments would also regulate student residence permits and establish grounds for



revoking them, including when a student "fails to meet academic requirements, violates conditions of employment, or is not actually present on the territory of Georgia for the period defined by law."

The legislative package would introduce a new residence permit for foreign spouses of Georgian citizens, with a special com-

mission responsible for verifying the authenticity of marriages before permits are granted.

In addition, the amendments would criminalize "fictitious marriages" entered into for the purpose of obtaining Georgian citizenship, residency, or another legal basis for lawful stay. The ministry said penalties could include deportation and

reentry bans of two to ten years for foreign nationals, as well as fines, house arrest, or imprisonment of up to two years.

The package also provides for replacing the unserved portion of a foreign convict's sentence with deportation and an entry ban. To combat illegal migration, the ministry said the amendments would grant its

Migration Department authority to conduct operational-search activities.

The proposed changes would also introduce what the ministry described as "significant changes" to court proceedings, including shorter appeal deadlines, expedited hearings, and, in some cases, proceedings conducted without oral hearings.

European Commission to Hold June 11 Meeting With Georgian Officials Following Visa Suspension

By MESSENGER STAFF



The European Commission will hold a technical meeting with Georgian officials on June 11 as part of an "enhanced dialogue" launched after the EU suspended visa-free travel for holders of Georgian diplomatic and service passports.

European Commission spokesperson Markus Lammert said the suspension, introduced in March 2026 for an initial period of 12 months following agreement by EU member states, triggered a formal process with Georgia aimed at addressing the reasons behind the measure.

"When a visa-free travel arrangement is suspended, the Commission initiates a process with the relevant third country that we refer to as an enhanced dialogue. Its purpose is to address the circumstances that led to the suspension," Lammert

said.

According to Lammert, the Commission believes that actions taken by the Georgian authorities "undermine the principles underpinning visa liberalization, including respect for human rights and democratic principles."

"These actions are incompatible with the norms and values of the European Union and hinder the stable development of economic, humanitarian, cultural, scientific, and other ties between the European Union and Georgia," he said.

Asked whether the Commission would provide an assessment or public briefing after the June 11 meeting, Lammert said it would be a technical meeting held within the framework of the suspension process.

"Perhaps you can ask me again after the meeting, and if possible, I will be able to provide information then," he said.