

Global Immigration alert

July 2026

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European Union

The EU imposes temporary visa restrictions on Guinean nationals

Executive summary

On 10 July 2026, the Council of the European Union adopted temporary restrictions on Schengen visa provisions for Guinean nationals, citing insufficient cooperation by Guinea on the readmission of its nationals residing irregularly in EU Member States. The measures include the suspension of multiple-entry visas, longer visa processing times, and the suspension of certain visa facilitation measures, including documentary evidence and optional visa fee waivers for holders of diplomatic and service passports.

Background

Under the EU Visa Code, the European Commission regularly assesses the level of cooperation of non-EU countries in accepting back and confirming the identity of their citizens who do not have the right to stay in an EU Member State. Following an assessment that Guinea's cooperation was insufficient, the Council of the European Union adopted temporary visa measures concerning Guinean nationals on 10 July 2026. The Council indicated that the restrictions are intended to encourage improved cooperation on readmission and may be reviewed if progress is made.

Key developments

As a result of the Council's decision, EU Member States can no longer:

- Issue multiple-entry Schengen visas to Guinean nationals
- Waive requirements regarding supporting documentary evidence
- Apply the optional visa fee waiver for holders of diplomatic and service passports

In addition, the standard processing period for Schengen visa applications submitted by Guinean nationals has increased from 15 calendar days to 45 calendar days.

The measures do not amount to a suspension of Schengen visa issuance for Guinean nationals. Applications may still be submitted and assessed, but the affected facilitation provisions are temporarily suspended. The restrictions are temporary and do not have a specific end date; the European Commission will continue to assess Guinea's progress on readmission cooperation.

Impact on employers

The measures may affect Guinean nationals who travel to the EU for business activities, assignments, meetings and other work-related purposes. Longer processing times and the suspension of multiple-entry visas may reduce travel flexibility and require additional planning for business travel to EU Member States.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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