

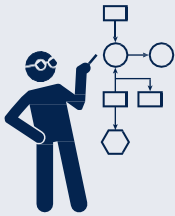
# ARMENIA-EU VISA LIBERALIZATION DIALOGUE

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October, 2024



# OUTLINE OF THE DISCUSSION



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**Background. People-to-people contacts on the RA - EU agenda**

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**RA - EU visa facilitation and readmission agreements**

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**Wrap-up**



# Background. People-to-people contacts on the RA - EU agenda



## Cooperation framework



## Objective included

Partnership and Cooperation Agreement	1996	Foster cooperation in various sectors
European Neighborhood Policy	2004	Foster people-to-people contacts
Eastern Partnership	2009	Continue to strengthen people-to-people contacts
Launch of visa facilitation dialogue	2011	Sign visa facilitation and readmission agreements
Visa facilitation and readmission agreements	2014	Simplify visa procedures, ensure readmission
Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement	2017	Article 83. Ensure the fulfillment of conditions, necessary for the visa-free regime
Launch of the visa liberalization dialogue	2024	Adopt a decision on visa liberalization



## ✈️ Visa Facilitation Agreement

- ✓ Standardization, simplification of required documents
- ✓ Reduction of visa fee from 60 to 35 EUR
- ✓ Shorter visa response time (10-30 calendar days)
- ✓ Facilitated access to the Schengen area for specific groups (students, scientists, businessmen, journalists, etc.)
- ✓ Multi-entry visa for specific groups

## ✈️ Readmission Agreement

- ✓ Bilateral commitment of readmitting their citizens
- ✓ Simplified and standardized return procedure
- ✓ Simplified procedure for issuing travel documents (3 working days)
- ✓ Procedure for readmission of citizens of 3rd countries, if they arrived in the territory of one of the parties via the other
- ✓ Human Rights Protection Provisions



# RA - EU visa liberalization dialogue: technical process



Document security, including full implementation of biometrics



- Approximation of travel document issuance procedure
- Issuance of biometric documents
- Prevention of fraudulent document issuance

Border management, migration and asylum



- Strengthening of border control
- Approximation of visa provision policies
- Viable asylum system
- Capacity building at migration management entity

Public order and safety



- Combating organized crime
- Combating corruption
- Enhanced cooperation of law enforcement bodies
- Independence of the judiciary

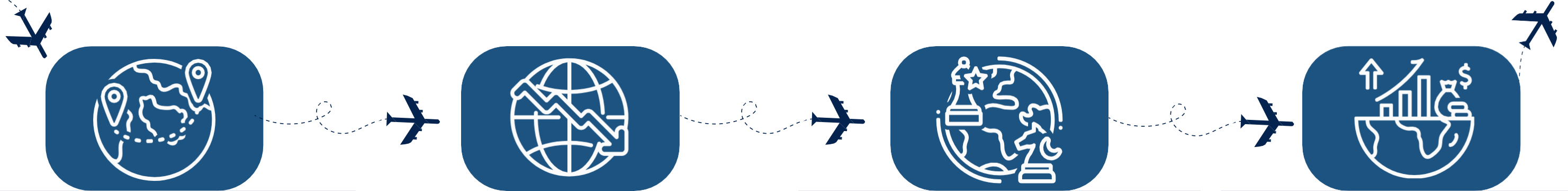
Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms



- Ensuring international standards of human rights protection
- Ensuring the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees



## Need for shaping consensus among the 27 EU member states



Increased sensitivity to migration policy within the EU, increased influence of right-wing and populist forces

Declining influence of traditionally influential states within the EU:  
complex internal political processes in Germany and France

Geopolitical processes:  
various EU policy scenarios in the region due to the war between Russia and Ukraine

Economic ties between EU member states and Azerbaijan, in particular, energy and military cooperation



## West Balkans

Dialogue period                      2008-2010  
 (with the exception of Kosovo 2008-2012)

Reform focus:

- Document security
- Border control

## Ukraine

Dialogue period                      2008-2017

Reform focus:

- Implementation of biometrics
- Migration management

## Moldova

Dialogue period                      2010-2014

Reform focus:

- Implementation of biometrics
- Border management

## Georgia

Dialogue period                      2012-2017

Reform focus:

- Implementation of biometrics
- Combating corruption







Armenia and the European Union have come a long way in promoting people-to-people contacts

Since the signing of the Visa Facilitation Agreement, the procedure of visa issuance to RA citizens has not de facto become easier

The visa liberalization dialogue has launched the process of complex reforms in various directions

Regardless of sectoral reforms, it is necessary to form a consensus among the EU member states, which implies conducting bilateral political work with individual states.

The regional states that have achieved visa liberalization have come a long and difficult way



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

