Joint statement
of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland

Russia's unjustified war against Ukraine is affecting the security of the whole of Europe.

Since mid-July, as countries bordering Russia, we have been facing a growing concern about the substantial increase of Russian citizens entering the European Union and the Schengen area across our borders. We believe that this could become a serious threat to public security.

Suspending visa facilitation agreement with Russia is a necessary first step but we need drastically limit the number of visas issued, above all tourist visas, to decrease the flow of Russian citizens into the European Union and the Schengen area. For this, we seek a common approach on the EU level and asked the European Commission to propose respective measures on visas that could be implemented by the European Union.

These measures should contain exceptions for dissidents as well as other humanitarian cases. We need to continue to support opponents of the Putin regime and provide them with opportunities to leave Russia.

Until such measures are in place on the EU level, we as countries bordering with Russia and Belarus will consider introducing on the national level temporary measures of visa ban, or restricting border crossing for Russian citizens holding EU visas in order to address imminent public security issues.