

To: Mr. Michael Tschanz

Subject: Letter to Minister Lavrov

Dear Mr. Tschanz,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter to Mr. Sergei Lavrov, the Foreign Minister of Russia regarding situation with crossing the land border between Russia and Belarus, and would like to provide some explanations.

Regretfully, incidents like the one described in your letter do happen from time to time with foreign nationals travelling via Belarus by car or train. Legally speaking, they are not permitted to cross the border between our countries (no matter if they possess a valid visa or other form of entry permit), because there are no border checkpoints on this border.

The authorities of Russia and Belarus are fully aware of the problem and working on finding a durable and comprehensive solution to provide legal basis to cross the Russia-Belarus border directly. Hopefully, we will be able to wrap up this job shortly.

Best regards,

The 2-nd CIS Department of the Foreign Ministry of Russia