

Góra Kalwaria, dnia 05 stycznia 2015 r.

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**To Chairman of
FRONTEX
Pl. Europejski 6
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STATEMENT

**about the Illegal Schengen Visa Business in the Consulates Subordinate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland
& Offer for cooperation between FRONTEX and Fundacja “RENESANS.BY”
for Fighting the Illegal Visa Business.**

Since 2012, there have been a problem to acquire a Schengen visa in the consulates of Poland in Brest, Hrodna, and the Consular Department of the Embassy of Poland in Minsk.

In November 2012 the Ambassador of Poland held a press conference in Minsk where he apologized to the people of Belarus for the difficulties with getting visas. He claimed the following about the procedure of registration of applications for visas on the MFA's website (by.e-konsulat.gov.pl):

“There is a group of skilled software engineers, I don't know if it's criminal or not, which managed to develop a technique of blocking a certain amount of registration slots which are later sold, and they are sold right near the Consulate entrance.”

(translated from Russian, original - <http://people.onliner.by/2012/11/14/viza-2> or <http://www.kp.by/online/news/1295869/>)

Besides that, I'd like to quote the Media Relation Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland:

“We do not have any proofs that organized groups exist, but as the registration slots for visa applications are later sold, we can assume they do.”