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Federation Council Approves Adoption and Visa Treaties With U.S.

By The Moscow Times

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The Federation Council on Wednesday approved two key agreements with the United States, an adoptions pact and a treaty on visas.

The long-awaited treaties will now go to President Vladimir Putin for final approval.

U.S. and Russian officials have praised the agreements, which are designed to make bilateral adoptions safer and to increase travel and trade between the two countries.

The adoption agreement was prompted by a series of high-profile abuse scandals involving Russian orphans and their U.S. adoptive parents.

Under the new visa deal, both countries will grant three-year visas to tourists and businesspeople.

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