

Putin Creates Police Service Tasked With Overseeing Registration of Foreigners

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Police check the identity papers of a man in Novosibirsk. **Kirill Kukhmar / TASS**

President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday [ordered](#) the creation of a service within Russia's Interior Ministry tasked with overseeing citizenship and the registration of foreigners.

Immigration in Russia was previously the purview of a standalone Federal Migration Service. In 2016, Putin [folded](#) that service into the Interior Ministry, becoming the Main Directorate for Migration Affairs.

Putin's latest decree establishes a Service for Citizenship and Registration of Foreign Citizens under that directorate, with the stated aim of "improving public administration in the area of migration."

The service will be [headed](#) by former deputy prosecutor general Andrei Kikot, who will also serve as first deputy interior minister.

The creation of the new service follows Prosecutor General Igor Krasnov's [criticism](#) of "significant lapses" with migration management at Russia's Interior Ministry.

Russia tightened migration laws following the deadly attack on a concert venue outside Moscow in March 2024, which was claimed by the Islamic State terrorist group and allegedly carried out by gunmen from Central Asia.

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