

**Question for written answer E-007531/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Morten Messerschmidt (ECR)

Subject: False identities

Increasingly, the Danish police are encountering problems involving the use, in Denmark, of false documents from other EU Member States. It has been stated, for example, that it is relatively easy to establish an existence in Denmark on the basis of false papers and that the problem is simply being passed on to a police force which has little time to take up the challenge¹. Because of the Schengen Area's open borders, it is attractive to be an EU citizen, and there is therefore a growing market for false EU identities. Every year, 26 000 EU citizens receive a certificate of registration in Denmark, allowing them to live and work in the country.

According to the Danish police, a set of false papers can be ordered on the Internet for EUR 2 000 and includes everything from a passport to a driving licence. Any passport or residence permit issued in the Schengen Area is valid throughout the area.

Will the Commission explain what it intends to do to prevent the use of false documents and, in particular, say:

1. whether there is anything in EU law to prevent Member States from deporting EU citizens found to have used a false identity or false papers?
2. whether any welfare benefits paid can be withdrawn or claimed back if it is established that a residence permit was issued on the basis of false ID papers?
3. what action it intends to take against EU Member States failing to make efforts to prevent false papers from being issued?

¹ Article in 'Dansk Politi', No 3, Week 14, 2012.