

**Question for written answer E-008386/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Gradual relaxation of visas between Ukraine and the European Union

The gradual relaxation of visas between Ukraine and the European Union is an important symbol of the association agreement that was recently ratified by both parties. However, due to the introduction of the European Visa Identification System (VIS), Ukrainians could be required to have biometric visas from January 2015. This obligation will quickly become a restriction that could limit exchanges between European and Ukrainian citizens. If each visa application requires the applicant to travel to one of the few towns in Ukraine where it is possible to submit an application, many Ukrainians may find themselves unable to travel within the European Union.

1. How can we ensure that the distribution of the consulates involved in managing the VIS in Ukraine does not cause insurmountable inequalities in terms of access for the visa applicants who live furthest from these consulates?
2. Given the highly unstable political situation in Ukraine, and what the success of the association agreement represents to our continent, would it not be possible for Ukrainians to obtain an exemption from the biometric visa obligation from 2015?