

**Question for written answer E-010639/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: The accession of Croatia to the Schengen area

It is well known that the creation of the Schengen area significantly improved communication and mobility between states within the area. This has had a particularly beneficial impact on the tourism industry. As Croatia is a major tourist destination, its accession to the Schengen area would palpably contribute to the competitiveness of Croatian tourism. We are witnessing, especially in the summer months, significant delays at border crossings not only from Slovenia but also from Hungary into Croatia. In addition, we have major problems also at maritime border crossings, since Croatia is famously a very popular maritime destination. A similar situation, involving large queues, is encountered also in Croatian airports. It should also be noted, if Croatia joins the Schengen area, that the borders with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro will become external borders.

I want to ask the Commission when Croatia is expected to join the Schengen area?