

**Question for written answer E-002506/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Visa reciprocity: discrimination on the grounds of origin

EU visa policy is governed by the principle of reciprocity: a third State whose nationals benefit from an exemption in the Schengen Area cannot impose a visa obligation on the nationals of one or more EU Member States. If this arrangement is not respected, the Commission can instigate a mediation procedure with the States in question and even temporarily suspend the visa exemption if the situation does not improve.

This vital system is designed to protect EU citizens against potential discrimination on the grounds of nationality. It would be even fairer and more coherent if it also applied to discrimination on the grounds of origin. For instance, Israel has been accused of showing prejudice against European Palestinians, large numbers of whom have reportedly been refused entry to or sent back from the country.

1. If these allegations are true, could this be a case of visa non-reciprocity within the definition of the reciprocity system introduced under Regulation (EC) No 1289/2013?
2. If not, would the Commission consider submitting a proposal to amend the Regulation, specifically to take account of discrimination on the grounds of origin?