Question for written answer E-003869/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Maria Spyraki (PPE) and Elissavet Vozemberg (PPE)

Subject: Passport control in the Schengen Area

According to the Schengen Borders Code, everyone is entitled to pass freely across the internal borders between the Schengen Member States without the need to go through passport control. On Saturday 7 March 2015, all passengers from flight A3623 from Athens to Brussels were made to go through passport control by the Belgian Police at the arrival gate at Brussels airport.

Given that no passengers from the flight were allowed through without first presenting a passport or identity card, the control was no different from a systematic control on the external borders of the Schengen Area.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

Is it of the opinion that the need for all passengers without exception from the Athens flight to present identification in order to enter Brussels Airport infringes the Schengen Code?

Is it aware that this check was carried out and of the reasons behind it?

Does it consider that this incident is connected to the Greek Government's policy on immigration?