

**Question for written answer E-008672/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Negotiations with the USA on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the easing of visa rules

The negotiations with the USA on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) have aroused both serious misgivings and certain hopes and expectations among people in Europe. In discussion of the agreement in Bulgaria, people are increasingly saying that they want the negotiations to be used as an opportunity to resolve the sensitive issue of visas.

The Commission has already indicated more than once that it has a position on the visa issue and it has answered questions on the matter, pointing out that: (1) the question of short-term visas is not normally addressed in EU trade agreements; (2) non-reciprocity may, however, impact on the movement of natural persons supplying services; (3) it is paying particular attention to ensuring that the negotiation of trade agreements is consistent with the overall efforts to achieve full visa reciprocity with the USA as soon as possible; (4) under the EU reciprocity mechanism, regular tripartite meetings take place with the participation of the Commission, the USA and the Member States concerned.

Does the Commission intend, therefore, to identify the needs of natural persons supplying services, with a view to submitting appropriate proposals, as part of the TTIP process, for removing the existing restrictions and easing the visa rules, at least as they affect specific professions?