

**Question for written answer E-010458/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mariya Gabriel (PPE)

Subject: Negotiations on short-stay visa waiver agreements

In 2014, Regulation (EU) No 509/2014 added 19 third countries to the list of countries whose nationals are exempt from the visa requirement when travelling to the Schengen area. In order for these visa exemptions to become effective, the Commission has negotiated and concluded reciprocal visa waiver agreements with an initial group of nine countries.

In the light of these recent developments, could the Commission answer the following questions:

- When will it seek authorisation from the Council to negotiate short-stay visa waiver agreements with the remaining 10 countries, and does it intend to further involve Parliament in the work of the Joint Readmission Committee for these upcoming negotiations?
- What is the rationale behind the common practice of applying these agreements on a provisional basis as from the date of signature, before Parliament has given its consent?
- On what basis will the Commission decide to include additional countries in the positive list set out in Regulation (EC) No 539/2001?