

**Question for written answer E-007044/2016  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Beatrix von Storch (EFDD)**

Subject: Visa liberalisation for Georgia: a green light for organised crime

The Federal Criminal Police Office increasingly holds criminal gangs from Georgia responsible for domestic burglaries in Germany: 'Overall it is ascertainable that property-related offences are being professionally planned and executed by Georgian suspects.' The Federation of German Detectives has also identified Georgian citizens as participants in organised crime. Criminals from Georgia, who can travel without a visa in the Schengen Area, are causing economic damage worth more than EUR 250 million per year in Germany. In spite of this, the Commission has recommended visa liberalisation for Georgia and thus given the 'green light' to criminals from Georgia travelling within the Schengen Area. Given that the Commission no longer sees passport controls for Georgian citizens as necessary and is removing visa requirements for Georgia, potential criminals can no longer be stopped at the Schengen borders.

1. Has the Commission taken note of the Member States' concerns with regard to organised crime carried out by Georgian citizens in the Schengen Area, and what is the Commission's assessment of the dangerous situation in Germany caused by Georgian gangs?
2. Does the Commission agree that third countries fulfilling only administrative criteria is not enough to remove visa requirements for their citizens, and that, given the current dangers associated with the migration crisis, assessments of the situation must also include a political component?
3. Will the Commission withdraw the visa liberalisation proposal for Georgia?