

**Question for written answer E-007697/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Spanish Government's violation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and Regulation (EC) No 539/2001, between the Union and Kosovo

The Spanish Government has denied a visa for a delegation from Kosovo to travel to Barcelona to take part in a conference of the International Association of Women Police.

In 2013, the Spanish Government refused a visa to 20 doctors from Kosovo wanting to attend a European anaesthesiology conference in Barcelona. In 2011, the doctors had encountered no problem in attending the same conference in Madrid.

Kosovo is a candidate country for EU accession. The EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Agreement entered into force in April 2016.

On 4 May 2016, the Commission began the procedure for lifting the visa requirement for short stays for citizens of Kosovo, proposing an amendment to Regulation (EC) No 539/2001, which lists the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas to enter the Schengen area. In Article 1 of that amendment the Commission proposes modifying the current status of Kosovo.

Does the Commission consider the Spanish Government's decision to be appropriate, given the precedent set in 2011 and the fact that the Commission has verified all the criteria which Kosovo must meet for the short-stay visa requirement to be lifted? Is this decision consistent with the Commission proposal regarding Regulation (EC) No 539/2001?