

**Question for written answer E-001756/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Josef Weidenholzer (S&D)

Subject: Sale of visas in Hungary

The practice of selling visas in Hungary, and the problems this implies, have been known about for some time. By purchasing government bonds to a value of EUR 300 000 (excluding arrangement fees) applicants can considerably improve their prospects of obtaining a Hungarian and thus a Schengen visa. Various agencies, some of them based in tax havens, carry out the work of arranging these visas. According to a press release of 3 February 2017 on its website, the firm of Arton offers to sell such residence permits from as little as EUR 125 000.

Months ago the Hungarian opposition drew attention to the threat to national security this represents. Accusations of corruption were also made.

1. What information does the Commission have on this matter?
2. What does the Commission know about the purchase of residence permits in other EU countries?