

**Question for written answer P-009761/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Visa regime for Russian citizens going to European destinations

The numbers of tourists visiting Croatia from the Russian market have fallen significantly since Croatia's accession to the EU. Russian tourism on the EU market has been reduced, not only because of the crisis in relations between the Russian Federation and the EU, but also owing to the complicated visa regime for Russian tourists visiting EU Member States.

Croatia has regularly received opinions and comments on the matter, and has implemented various measures to increase the numbers of Russian citizens visiting the country. Nevertheless, although progress has been made, the issue has still not been properly resolved.

Therefore, to reach the goal described above on a European scale, it is necessary to work intensively on the coordination of measures by all responsible national and European institutions, which will also make it possible to attract investors from Russia.

Is the visa regime for Russian citizens the same for all European countries, and do the EU measures apply likewise? If this is not the case, what will the EU do to standardise the regime?

What measures will the Commission take to resolve the issue of the visa regime, in order to simplify matters for Russian citizens travelling to European destinations?