

**Question for written answer P-000681/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)

Subject: Romania's accession to the Schengen area

Romania became a full EU member in 2007. The country's accession to the Schengen area, however, has been constantly rejected by one or more of the member countries of the free movement zone, despite the fact that Romania fulfils all technical conditions.

Positive assessments were given in all reports, stating that Romania had met the technical criteria, which led the European Parliament to vote in favour of Romania's entry into the Schengen area in June 2011. Romania has deployed great financial resources to reach the goals required by the EU. In spite of this, its citizens still do not have the same rights as other European citizens, especially on the labour market.

Can the Commission provide an update concerning the stage these accession negotiations have now reached? Will she make a public statement aimed at preventing populists from using the terrorist attacks in Paris and the subsequent misleading media statements about border controls to delay, once again, Romania's full accession to the Schengen area? The inclusion of Romania (and Bulgaria) would strengthen European protection and security in every respect.