

**Question for written answer P-003075/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Helga Stevens (ECR)**

Subject: Visa liberalisation for Qatar, Kuwait and Oman

The EU has a common list of countries whose citizens must have a visa when crossing its external borders, and a list of countries whose citizens are exempt from that requirement. A Commission proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Annex II to Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 is rumoured to be in the making, whereby citizens from Qatar, Kuwait and Oman would be exempt from the requirement to be in possession of a visa when crossing our external borders.

1. Can the Commission confirm that such a proposal will be submitted, and when?

With the current terrorist threat in mind, some EU countries, including Belgium, are working to better screen imams from these regions who want to travel to their territory to give speeches and lectures. Entry is refused on internal security grounds when these individuals adhere to strict Salafist interpretations of the Koran and can be presumed to practise hate preaching.

2. Has the Commission taken into account the fact that EU countries – without being faced with a prior visa request – may not (always) be capable of keeping such unwanted individuals out of their territory unless there is a fully operational EU passenger name record system?