

**Question for written answer P-003358/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Philippe Juvin (PPE)

Subject: Will Turkey meet the 72 criteria for visa liberalisation?

The Agreement of 18 March 2016 between the EU and Turkey provides for an acceleration of the visa liberalisation roadmap. Ankara made it a prerequisite for accepting the return to its territory of migrants illegally entering Greece after 20 March. This roadmap obliges Turkey to meet a set of 72 criteria by the end of June 2016.

On 4 May the Commission is due to present its third report on progress made by Turkey in meeting these criteria.

If all these criteria are met, the Commission will unveil a legislative proposal to include Turkey in the list of countries exempted from visa requirements.

According to Dimitris Avramopoulos, the Commissioner for Migration, by 16 March 2016 only 35 of the 72 criteria had been met.

Given this haste, it is legitimate to doubt whether Turkey will genuinely meet all of these criteria.

1. Could the Commission explain what the 35 criteria are that Turkey has so far met?
2. What are the 37 criteria that have not been met?
3. In the past, have other countries benefited from such an exemption even though the criteria had not been strictly met?