

**Question for written answer P-002423/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Filiz Hyusmenova (ALDE)

Subject: Assessment of the lack of full access of Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Cyprus to the Visa Information System

The Visa Information System (VIS) is a visa data exchange system for Member States designed to prevent visa shopping and fraud, to facilitate visa application procedures, border checks and identity checks within Member States, and to help prevent threats to Member States' internal security. To this end, VIS provides a central repository of data on all short-stay Schengen visas. Although Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania have the duty to protect external EU borders, since they are not yet part of the Schengen Area, they are not connected to the VIS and do not have access to its data.

1. Has the Commission conducted an impact assessment into the consequences of the lack of full access of Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania to the central repository of VIS data?
2. Given that the border guards of those countries have no access to crucial EU visa data, does the Commission regard this lack of access as a loophole in the internal security of the EU?
3. How does the Commission assess the impact of the lack of access to VIS in the context of ongoing discussions on JHA database interoperability?