Question for written answer P-007516/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Illegal passport controls carried out by the Belgian authorities within the Schengen area
             on passengers arriving by air from Greece

On Monday, 4 December 2017, passengers on Aegean Airlines Flight 622 from Athens to Brussels were officially informed immediately after landing that the Belgian authorities would be checking their passports.

Immediately after the passengers had left the aircraft, the Belgian authorities, in the form of persons in civilian clothing wearing distinctive red armbands, checked their passports within the Schengen area of Zaventem airport in Brussels.

This unlawful act by the Belgian authorities comes in the wake of similar illegal actions by the German authorities, which are systematically carrying out passport controls on passengers arriving on flights from Greece. Thus, after the German authorities introduced 'quarantine' measures for Greeks and other air passengers arriving in Germany from Greece, the Belgian authorities are now introducing their own 'quarantine' measures.

Since it is forbidden to carry out any passport controls within the Schengen area on passengers of flights who have legally boarded an aircraft which has departed from another Schengen country and in view of the abovementioned unlawful act by the Belgian authorities, can the Commission say:

–   What measures does it intend to take against the Belgian authorities to prevail upon them henceforth to stop carrying out illegal passport controls of this kind on air passengers from Greece within the Schengen area?