WRITTEN QUESTION E-4137/06
by Bogdan Klich (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Possible delay in extending Schengen system to new Member States

The Schengen area covers parts of European Union territory where Member States have abolished
passport controls at frontiers in order to facilitate travel, thereby establishing one of the fundamental
freedoms underlying the idea of a common Europe, the freedom for Member States citizens to travel
between the countries of the Union. Some time ago, October 2007 was set as the date on which the
new Member States, including Poland, were to join the Schengen system. The conclusions to the
Brussels European Council of 16 June 2006 spoke of the need to do everything possible to ensure that
this deadline was met.

There are now those in the Commission saying that a delay in extending the Schengen system is
unavoidable. As a Polish Member of the European Parliament, I disagree profoundly with the
approach adopted by the Commission. It is unacceptable that the delays in building premises to house
the SIS II headquarters, the problems with the tender procedure for computers and software or the
excessively long process for establishing a legal base for SIS II, should oblige millions of citizens
from the new Member States of the Union to continue to stand in passport queues at borders.

This state of affairs relegates Poles and others to the rank of second-class EU citizens. Every delay in
extending the Schengen agreement will serve only to increase the frustrations with accession felt by
citizens of the new Member States. The October 2007 deadline initially set is still a long way off and
the Commission should do all in its power to ensure that it is met. In the light of the above, will the
Commission answer the following:

1.   When will the Schengen agreement finally be extended to the new Member States of the
Union, including Poland?

2.   What will the Commission do to ensure that the deadline of October 2007 initially set for
extending the agreement is met?