

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1876/07
by Henrik Lax (ALDE)
to the Council

Subject: Reciprocity mechanism

According to the Commission's document (COM(2004)0437) on the reciprocity mechanism, the Community should act in solidarity if a third country introduces a visa requirement for any of the EU's Member States and should require a visa of that third country's nationals. What happens if the situation is reversed, however?

For example, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Macedonia have abolished the visa requirement for EU citizens. By doing so, it was also their intention to send out a positive political signal of a desire for closer cooperation with the Union. The EU has initiated negotiations to simplify the visa procedure with Ukraine, Moldova and Macedonia but a comparative examination of the measures concerned - abolition of the visa requirement on the one hand, and the introduction of a number of minor concessions affecting certain selected groups in society, on the other - swiftly reveals that they are not comparable. What steps does the Council intend to take to improve reciprocity?