

E-3949/08EN  
Answer given by Mr Barrot  
on behalf of the Commission  
(23.9.2008)

According to the Schengen acquis, authorities of the Member States are not allowed to carry out border checks solely for the reason that the person is crossing the internal border.

However, the abolition of border control at internal borders does not affect the right of police or airport authorities to carry out identity checks in order to prevent unauthorised access to securised zones. Moreover, it does not affect the right of airline companies to verify the identity of the passengers with a view to ensuring that he/she is the person indicated on the ticket.

Therefore, if passengers are requested to show their passport while entering departure areas in the above-mentioned cases, this should not be considered as being in contradiction with Community law.