

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5867/08
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to the Commission

Subject: State of play on Romanian and Bulgarian integration into the Schengen area

The expansion of the Schengen area, which took place in late 2007 and in the first months of 2008, represents a remarkable success for the EU and a palpable benefit for European citizens.

Nonetheless, the Schengen area still excludes Romania and Bulgaria, the two Member States which joined in 2007. Their incorporation is of major importance for the citizens of those countries, and Bucharest and Sofia have undertaken to take the necessary measures. Nonetheless, informed sources are now criticising the slow pace of implementation of the two governments' measures.

- Given that, as from 2009, Romania wishes to be ready to receive the first Schengen evaluation missions in the fields of police cooperation, visas and data protection, what is the Commission's position concerning implementation of the two Member States' plans for preparing to join the Schengen area?
- What is the Commission's view on the coordination of the implementation of Community assistance via Schengen Facility funds by the Romanian authorities?
- By what measures is the Commission supporting Romania in its process of implementing the Schengen Information System (SIS) and of migrating to that system's second-generation version (SIS II)?
- How does the Commission evaluate the effectiveness of the institutional cooperation between it and the Romanian authorities, both in general and regarding the specialised unit - the Schengen National Self-Evaluation Commission (CNAS) - set up within the Ministry for Internal Affairs and Administrative Reform?