

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1611/09
by Stavros Lambrinidis (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Visa waiver

Will the Commission say whether the US authorities intend shortly to include the five remaining countries in the passport visa waiver system under the same terms and conditions as apply to all the other EU Member States?

If not, on what basis do they continue to refuse to do so?

It has been reported that one of the arguments put forward by the US authorities is their inability to adopt an 'entry-exit system which works'; those Member States which have not been included do not, of course, bear any responsibility for this. If the implementation of an 'entry-exit system' is a matter of top security for the US, how can the US authorities explain the fact that they have not postponed the passport visa waiver system for all Member States until the problem is resolved, but instead are simply using this as a pretext to pursue their policy of discrimination against some Member States only? What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that European citizens are treated equally?