

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1616/09  
by Aloyzas Sakalas (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Principle of reciprocity in visa regime with Taiwan

Taiwan grants visa exemptions for stays of no more than three months to EU citizens from 24 Member States and has extended the same offer to Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus. Meanwhile, Taiwanese nationals still require a visa to travel to the EU.

Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001<sup>1</sup> states that when determining the list of third countries whose nationals are subject to or exempt from visa requirements, consideration should be given to the principle of reciprocity.

The illegal immigration and other security risks potentially associated with the lifting of the visa requirement for Taiwanese nationals being extremely limited, what are the remaining obstacles that need to be lifted in order to enhance bilateral trade opportunities via a simplified visa regime? To what extent does the fact that the EU Member States do not recognize Taiwan as a state impede implementation of a visa-free regime with Taiwan?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 81, 21.3.2001