

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1616/10  
by Ivo Strejček (ECR)  
to the Commission

Subject: Police checks on Czech citizens immediately after they have crossed the border into Germany

On 21 December 2007, the Czech Republic became part of the so-called Schengen area, the basic principle of which is the free movement 'without frontiers' of citizens of all Member States belonging to this area.

On 6 May 2008, I asked your predecessor in office how it was possible that the German authorities had started to carry out checks, in unprecedented fashion, on Czech and Polish citizens on the German side of the 'former' border crossing points. These checks were a striking reminder of earlier restrictions, since banned, on the free movement of persons across borders.

Two years on, the situation has not changed. Czech citizens are still being stopped and checked by the German police in a way that strongly recalls border checks. What is more, since 1 January 2010 the police have proceeded to undertake stricter, disproportionate checks which discriminate against and humiliate Czech citizens (testing for narcotic and psychotropic drugs by means of urine tests right by the roadside on motorways and other roads!)

1. Is the European Commission monitoring this issue in cooperation with the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Czech Republic?
2. Are any findings from this monitoring available yet?
3. Does the action taken by the German authorities not amount to a circumvention of the Schengen Borders Code?
4. Does that Schengen Borders Code allow police forces to carry out checks which are discriminatory and humiliating for citizens of other Member States?