Question for written answer E-9560/2010 to the Commission Rule 117 Ernst Strasser (PPE) and Carlos Coelho (PPE)

Subject: Implementation of the Visa Information System (VIS)

After repeated postponements of the implementation of VIS at central level, the new deadline for implementation is 24 June 2011, the decision on the start of operations lying with the European Commission.

What is the current situation with regard to the implementation of VIS? Is there a precise schedule? Which tests are still outstanding, and which have already been carried out?

Are the Member States on schedule for implementing VIS at national level?

What progress has been made in the work on the central system? Are similar delays to those experienced with SIS II to be expected?

Can pre-tests in advance of the projected start of operations of the entire system (24 June 2011) guarantee that – or at least indicate whether – the system will operate fully and correctly with real data?

838139.EN PE 453.497