

**Question for written answer E-005535/2012  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Axel Voss (PPE)**

Subject: Visa requirements for civil society organisations in Ukraine

In autumn 2011, Ukraine brought into force a regulation requiring civil society organisations to issue invitations before visas could be issued. However, no legal channels yet exist for the necessary registration procedures. According to the Ukrainian Embassy in Germany, the relevant authority is still 'in the process of being set up'.

This means that long-standing volunteers who present a civil-society invitation to Ukrainian consulates will no longer receive a visa. This is also putting European voluntary services in Ukraine at risk.

1. Is the Commission aware of this problem? If so, has it expressed its criticism to the Ukrainian Government?
2. What view does the Commission take of this visa regulation?
3. How does it consider that matters could be improved?