

**Question for written answer E-011598/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Konrad Szymański (ECR)

Subject: Excessive controls on Polish nationals at the Polish-Swedish maritime border and their compliance with Schengen provisions

I have recently been made aware of incidences of unjustified and burdensome controls taking place at the Polish-Swedish border which go beyond the Schengen rules in force. This concerns the controls on Polish nationals carried out by TULL, the Swedish customs and border agency, in both Karlskrona and Nynäshamn.

Random checks are perfectly natural and justified in the Schengen area. Polish nationals, however, are regularly subjected to persistent questioning: 'Where are you going?'; 'What for?'; 'For how long?', 'Who are you visiting?', 'What is the purpose of your trip?' Often their ID documents are not even checked, so this is not a matter of the SIS controls allowed by law.

Detailed checks are also made on cars leaving the ferry to check for smuggling of drugs or weapons. These checks last at least two hours. Sometimes the customs officers make people call relatives in Sweden to confirm that they are actually visiting someone.

In this connection I would like to ask:

1. Do these detailed checks violate Schengen provisions?
2. Has the Commission received complaints about such incidents from Polish citizens, and if so, what was the outcome?
3. Has the Commission been in contact with the Swedish authorities to seek clarification and an end to any potential violations of European law?