

**Question for written answer E-004671/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Mariya Gabriel (PPE)

Subject: Visa requirements imposed by the USA and Canada on certain EU Member States, and the EU's response within the framework of the reciprocity mechanism

Amending Regulation (EU) No 1289/2013, which came into force in December 2013, established the visa reciprocity mechanism. That mechanism enables the EU to provide a common and collective response in situations where third countries impose individual visa requirements on EU Member States.

The Commission set a deadline of 9 February 2014 for Member States to notify it of any cases of visa requirements being maintained. Those Member States can also request the Commission to reintroduce visa requirements for the countries in question, in line with the principle of reciprocity. Should it receive such notifications, the Commission has until June 2014 to take action and adopt the appropriate decisions.

Can the Commission state, in this connection:

1. What progress has been made in the case of the visa requirements imposed by the USA on certain EU Member States – Bulgaria, Romania, Cyprus and Poland – and of those imposed by Canada on the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Romania?
2. Has it received notification from any of these Member States that visa requirements are still being maintained?
3. What are the next steps it will take to ensure equal treatment for all EU citizens?