Subject: State of play of accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen Area

In its conclusions of 9 June 2011 on the completion of the process of evaluation of the state of preparedness of Bulgaria and Romania to implement all provisions of the Schengen acquis, the Council confirmed that Romania and Bulgaria had fulfilled the necessary conditions.

In its reports of 22 October 2019 on progress under the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (COM(2019)0498 and COM(2019)0499), the Commission outlined some of the main remaining obstacles to granting Romania and Bulgaria full Schengen membership. These included concerns regarding the rule of law in Romania and organised crime in Bulgaria.

Could the Council inform us of the latest situation as regards the full membership of Romania and Bulgaria of the Schengen area?