

**Question for written answer E-000901/2022
to the Council**
Rule 138
Eugen Tomac (PPE)

Subject: Romanian accession to the Schengen area

The Schengen area is an expression of the fundamental values underlying the construction of Europe and membership thereof is a right and an obligation under the EU Accession Treaty. Romania's fulfilment of all the criteria laid down in the Schengen acquis was recognised on 9 June 2011 by the Justice and Home Affairs Council and, over the last ten years, the European Parliament has adopted a number of reports calling for it to join. However, 15 years after joining the EU, Romania continues to be treated as a second-class state.

1. When is Romania expected to be able to join the Schengen area?
2. Given the importance of abolishing EU internal border controls as part of the European integration process, what obstacles remain in the path of Romanian accession to the Schengen area 15 years after joining the EU? Can Council explain why more progress has been made in this direction with Croatia, the newest EU Member State?
3. What political and administrative measures remain to be taken by the Council, Commission and Romania to this end? Has a timetable been drawn up for this purpose?