

**Question for written answer E-004057/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Marian-Jean Marinescu (PPE)

Subject: A new area of free movement between Romania and Bulgaria

At the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting on 8 December 2022, Austria and the Netherlands decided to block the entry of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen area, despite the positive evaluation reports on the Schengen acquis and the closure of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Romania.

In view of the adverse economic and social consequences for Romania and Bulgaria of their being outside the Schengen area, can the Commission answer the following question:

What would the Commission's stance be on the possibility of establishing an area of free movement between Romania and Bulgaria, or in other words a new area of free movement not called 'Schengen', but 'Calafat-Vidin' or 'Giurgiu-Ruse'?

Submitted: 13.12.2022