

**Question for written answer E-001317/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Visa exemption

The European Union has granted visa exemptions to a number of countries, allowing their nationals to enter and move freely within the EU, i.e. within the Schengen area.

On 9 March, at the request of the Member States' interior ministers, the Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, announced that the mechanism for granting these visa exemptions would be revised.

Although it was introduced in 2013 and revised in 2017, the suspension mechanism has almost never been triggered, despite the fact that nationals of visa-exempt countries are contributing to the massive influx of migrants into Europe.

Revising the mechanism again is unlikely to improve the situation, given the Commission's pro-immigration policies.

The ministers also called on the Commission to assess whether the countries involved are complying with the visa exemption criteria.

1. Can the Commission explain why the visa exemptions have almost never been suspended, despite the lack of cooperation on migration by the countries that benefit from them?
2. How often has the Commission assessed whether these visa-exempt countries are complying with the criteria, and what conclusions has it drawn?
3. Have other procedures to suspend the visa exemption previously been launched? If so, why have they never been concluded?

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