

**Question for written answer E-002344/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Patrick Breyer** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Fingerprint checks upon entering the Schengen Area

Regulation (EC) No 2252/2004 provides for a general obligation for all EU citizens to provide fingerprints which will be stored on a contactless chip in a passport or travel document issued by a Member State. This allegedly makes passports and travel documents more secure, strengthens the link between the passport or travel document and the holder, and thus prevents the fraudulent use of passports or travel documents. The Commission has conducted several investigations into this matter.

1. Does the Commission know how often the fingerprint data stored in travel documents is used to check the authenticity and identity of travellers entering the Schengen Area, and how many instances of attempted fraud have been detected? If applicable, please break down the statistics by Member State.
2. How many of the Schengen Area entry points are equipped with the technology used to check whether the fingerprints of those travelling match up with the data stored in their travel documents?
3. According to the Commission's findings, which Member States are actually able to verify the authenticity of the fingerprint data found in the travel documents of EU citizens at their Schengen Area entry points?

Submitted: 25.7.2023