

**Question for written answer E-000357/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Creation of a mini-Schengen zone between Bulgaria, Romania and Greece

After years of unjustified delays, in December 2023 the Council took the unanimous decision to welcome Romania and Bulgaria into the Schengen area, starting with the lifting of controls at air and sea borders only, as of March 2024.

The decision on lifting controls at land borders is still pending.

Against this backdrop, a widely debated idea has emerged, proposing the rapid creation of a mini-Schengen zone between Greece, Romania and Bulgaria, to be operational by the summer of 2024, in order to ease the heavy border traffic between the three countries.

In this context:

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the concept of creating a mini-Schengen zone to lift controls at the land borders between Bulgaria, Romania and Greece until a final decision in this regard has been taken by the Council?
2. Does the Commission consider the concept technically and logistically possible and feasible?
3. Would the Commission consider such action to be compatible with the Schengen acquis and EU law?

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