ORAL QUESTION H-0802/05 for Question Time at the part-session in October 2005 pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure by Ewa Klamt to the Commission

Subject: Lifting Chinese visa obligation

Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány pressed for lifting the visa obligation for Chinese citizens in a lecture given at Qinghua University, Beijing, on 9 September, 2005.

As quoted by the Hungarian and international media, Gyurcsány stated that Hungary is among those EU countries that support the abolition of the visa requirement for Chinese visitors and added that there are only a few states left within the EU who wish to maintain it.

Has the Commission any plan to lift the Chinese visa obligation?

Could the Commission, please, comment on the statement of the Hungarian Prime Minister in light of the ongoing 'construction' of the common EU visa policy?

Tabled: 28.09.2005

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