

**Question for oral answer O-0085/2010
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Subject: Canadian visa obligation for Czech, Romanian and Bulgarian citizens

During the recent EU-Canada Summit a commitment was made to resolve the remaining obstacles to achieving visa-free travel for all EU citizens.

However this process is being hampered by the reintroduction of a visa requirement for Czech citizens who wish to enter Canada, as well as by the imposition of the visa requirement for Romanian and Bulgarian citizens.

This current state of affairs is undermining the common EU visa policy which is based on reciprocity and is meant to promote the right of free movement for all EU citizens. There should be no doubt that, in this matter, the Commission stands on the side of EU citizens and EU Member States.

1. How does the Commission assess the effectiveness of the EU's approach to the issue up to now?
2. What is the Commission's position on Canadian attempts to subject the lifting of the visa obligation to different conditions, such as the reform of the Canadian asylum system or a decrease in the number of asylum seekers or the minority integration policies in an EU Member State?
3. Does the Commission intend to apply any pressure on Canada to undertake to lift the visa obligation in concrete terms? If so, what means is the EU going to employ in achieving this goal?
4. What concrete steps will the Commission take to implement the Summit Statement?

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