

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2004/00  
by Margot Keßler (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Proposal for a Council Regulation determining the list of third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement

1. When is the regulation scheduled to enter into force so that Bulgaria is no longer on the list of countries for whose nationals a visa is required?
2. Is it not true that the opting-out provisions applicable to the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland are resulting in a multi -speed Europe and what message is this sending to the applicant countries?
3. In view of the numerous exemptions, the regulation appears to be of very limited value. Does it therefore still serve any useful purpose?
4. A change in political circumstances should alter the listing of a Member State accordingly - in other words, how quickly is it possible for a country to move from one list to the other?