

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2918/04
by Barbara Kudrycka (PPE-DE)
to the Council

Subject: Schengen cooperation

With reference to the long-term programme for the further development of the area of freedom, security and justice in the European Union, the fact cannot be ignored that the new Member States are still not full participants in this area because the Council has failed to abolish controls at the EU's internal borders. To this end, all the Member States participating in the Schengen arrangements must be connected to the Schengen Information System and the mutual evaluation process completed by the end of 2006.

What steps has the Council taken in terms of procedure and an evaluation timetable to achieve successful completion of this process as quickly as possible, and to enable the Council to take a legitimate decision in early 2007, supported by the necessary data, to meet the expectations of citizens and people living in EU territory who wish to have the full benefits of complete freedom of movement?

When will the process of mutual evaluation begin in relation to the new Member States which, despite being participants in the Schengen area, find their inhabitants do not yet enjoy the benefits of the removal of controls on internal borders?

Will the Council include in the evaluation procedure the very positive reports by experts from EU states prior to 1 May 2004 on the significant improvements and relatively high level of protection of the external eastern borders of the Union along stretches of EU national state borders?

Will the Council consider connecting the eligible Member States to the second generation SIS before working on the functionality of the system?

Will the Council envisage beginning the mutual evaluation process even before SIS II is launched, in order to complete the whole process in the shortest time possible?