

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1964/08
by László Surján (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Does the existence of a Hungarian visa issued pre-Schengen preclude the issue of a new (Schengen) visa?

A date to celebrate: starting from 30 March 2008, Hungary's participation in the Schengen Agreement also extends to travel by air.

There are, however, concerns about the practical implementation of the Agreement.

I have some questions for the Commission in the light of complaints I have received from European citizens living in Hungary.

- Does the Schengen Agreement contain any provision such that a Member State may not issue a Schengen visa to a citizen of a state which is not party to the Agreement if the citizen in question is in possession of a valid visa which was issued prior to accession to the Schengen Agreement and which authorises that citizen to enter the Member State concerned?

- Are people guilty of irregularities or punishable by law if they lawfully enter Hungary using their existing visa and then travel to another country which has signed the Schengen Agreement?