Priority question for written answer P-002251/2023 to the Commission

Rule 138

Tonino Picula (S&D)

Subject: Automatic passport checks at EU border crossings and discrimination against citizens

Many citizens of Croatia, as well as of other Member States, have unpleasant experiences at EU border crossings because their passports are not automatically read at the so-called E-gates, forcing them to stand in line in order to cross the border. Unfortunately, instead of it becoming easier for our citizens to cross the border, the opposite is happening.

In light of the above:

- 1) Under current EU legislation, why are unpleasant situations occurring in which EU citizens with valid biometric documents cannot access automatic passport controls at EU border crossings?
- 2) How does the Commission ensure that the relevant legislation on electronic document checks is implemented, and what steps is it taking to ensure its full application at EU border crossings?

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