

**Priority question for written answer P-000146/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Clarification on controls at internal air and maritime borders between Bulgaria and Romania, starting from 31 March 2024

We welcome the decision of the European Council of 30 December 2023 to lift controls at internal air and maritime borders between Bulgaria and Romania, starting from 31 March 2024. We also appreciate the application of the Schengen acquis provisions to Bulgaria and Romania in relation to the other Member States of the free movement area. This is good news for all Romanian citizens and companies, although Romania deserves full Schengen area membership.

Nevertheless, there is a lack of clarity regarding the consequences of this EU decision on river borders and whether controls at river ports will also be lifted.

1. In this regard, we request further clarification on the matter: What impact will the partial and gradual implementation of these new Schengen area rules concerning Romania have on the border control regime of Danube ports and river borders, both between Bulgaria and Romania and in relation to the other Schengen Member States, starting from 31 March 2024?
2. Will the controls at river ports also be lifted for the two countries?

Submitted: 17.1.2024