

**Priority question for written answer P-000247/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Maria Spyraiki (PPE)

Subject: Bulgaria and Romania's partial entry into the Schengen zone and the unfair advantage of air travel over road travel

The partial entry of Bulgaria and Romania into the Schengen zone in March 2024, which will mean no checks at air and sea borders but will still involve checks at land borders for citizens of these countries wishing to enter other EU Member States, is causing discrimination against tourism by road. Keeping checks at land borders only means that tourism destinations in the north of Greece that do not have direct flights to Romania and Bulgaria are unfairly discriminated against in the single market for services, due to citizens from Bulgaria and Romania having to undergo checks at land borders.

According to INSETE Intelligence data for the period January-November 2023, the following number of road arrivals were recorded at each of the border control posts listed: 2.6 million at Promachonas, 2.2 million at the Evzones, 896 000 at Kipoi, 689 000 at Krystallopigi, 627 000 at Ormenio, 570 000 at Kakavia, 528 000 at Nymphaia, 441 0000 at Niki, 332 000 at Exochi and 301 000¹ at Doirani. In light of these figures, can the Commission answer the following:

1. When will checks at Bulgarian and Romanian land borders be lifted and when will they fully enter the Schengen zone?
2. What steps will it take in the meantime to eliminate the instances of discrimination that will arise as of 31 March 2024 and thus protect the single market for services?

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¹ <https://www.grtimes.gr/ellada/kroyaziera-2024-ischyri-zitisi-anavathmismeno-to-proion-apo>