

**Question for written answer E-015995/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Eva Paunova (PPE)**

Subject: Security of the EU's external borders

Europe has taken its first firm step towards higher levels of security. The Commission has presented its proposals for changes to the security of the EU's external borders, under which a European border and coast guard will be established. This agency, together with national authorities, will be able to truly protect the Union's land and maritime borders.

Given that 1.5 million illegal immigrants entered the EU in just the first ten months of 2015, these measures were necessary. They are the only way of preserving the unity of the EU and preventing the re-establishment of internal borders. Without secure external borders, both the Schengen Agreement and free movement within the Union are under serious threat.

In this regard:

What mechanism will be used to identify situations in which the new agency for the Schengen Area will be required to intervene without an express request to do so from the relevant Member State?

Before the proposed measures are implemented, does the Commission plan to perform an additional assessment of the borders' condition, the technical facilities and the staff's training with a view to establishing a common standard across all Member States?