

Question for written answer E-015757/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sophia in 't Veld (ALDE)

Subject: Information-sharing requirements under US Visa Waiver Programme

All US Visa Waiver Programme (VWP) countries are required to enter into information-sharing agreements with the United States with a view to determining whether a national of the country concerned travelling to the US represents a security or criminal threat to the US. All VWP countries have entered into the required arrangements for the sharing of information on known and suspected terrorists pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 6 (HSPD-6), and have also signed Preventing and Combating Serious Crime (PCSC) agreements or the equivalent with the US for purposes of sharing information on potential serious criminals and terrorists. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Departments of Justice and State are working with VWP countries with a view to fully implementing HSPD-6 arrangements and PCSC agreements.

1. Can the Commission inform Parliament concerning these information-sharing agreements, i.e. which EU Member States are concerned, what kind of information is being shared, and on what conditions?
2. Can the Commission inform Parliament regarding what EU instruments exist for (mandatory or voluntary) sharing of the same categories of information within the EU?
3. Can the Commission confirm whether more information is being shared on a mandatory basis between the US and the EU (and its Member States) than within the EU and between EU Member States?