

**Question for written answer E-000998/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Hélène Flautre (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Use of the European laissez-passer in accordance with Community law

The European laissez-passer is a standard travel document for the return of third-country nationals, as defined by the Council in an annex to its Recommendation of 30 November 1994.

In Belgium, the Afghan diplomatic authorities only agree to issue a laissez-passer to Afghans when it has been requested by them, for example in the context of a voluntary return. This is firstly because security is not guaranteed in Afghanistan and secondly because there are often doubts as to the actual nationality of the person in question. The Aliens Office therefore unilaterally issues a 'European laissez-passer' to send these people back to Afghanistan, despite the lack of a readmission agreement.

Without a bilateral readmission agreement or a European readmission agreement specifically providing for this, under what situations, if any, could this European laissez-passer be used by a Member State?

How does the Commission monitor the scope of these documents and their use by Member States? How many European laissez-passer are issued each year by Member States? Is their use in accordance with Community law?