

**Question for written answer E-002629/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Lifting of the Schengen tourist visa requirement for Ecuadorian nationals

While most Latin American and Caribbean countries have concluded agreements with the EU exempting their citizens from the requirement to have a Schengen tourist visa, citizens from some of the region's countries still need one. Ecuador, for example, has been working for more than five years and making reforms to gain exemption for its citizens. Negotiations went smoothly, and the country got a favourable response from the EU and substantial support from countries such as Spain, France and Italy. However, it has not yet been possible to make that step a reality, although it had been hoped it would happen in 2021. Ecuador's neighbouring countries of Colombia and Peru are currently exempt from the Schengen visa requirement.

In the light of the above and of the proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 recommending that nationals of Kuwait and Qatar be exempted from the visa requirement, what is the Commission's perspective on the timetable for the lifting of that requirement for Ecuadorian nationals?