

**Question for written answer E-003893/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Seán Kelly (PPE)

Subject: Passport control arrangements for EU families with children under 12

Under Article 8c of the Schengen Borders Code, children under 12 years of age cannot use automated border control systems. The Commission's Practical Handbook for Border Guards states that Member States using such systems should maintain sufficient non-automated lanes for children and persons accompanying them.

A constituent of mine, an Irish citizen who recently travelled with a child through both Paris Charles de Gaulle and Rome Fiumicino airports, has informed me that when they were unable to use the automated gates, they were instead directed to an 'all passports' queue. On both occasions, this resulted in a wait of over 90 minutes, while other EU citizens passed through the automated gates.

Article 10 of the Schengen Borders Code provides that persons enjoying free movement rights under EU law are entitled to use lanes designated 'EU, EEA, CH'.

In this context:

1. Does the Commission consider that directing EU citizens travelling with children to 'all passports' queues, without adequate access to staffed EU/EEA/CH lanes, is consistent with the Schengen Borders Code?
2. Will the Commission consider further guidance to ensure that EU families with children under 12 years of age do not face disproportionate waiting times because they cannot use automated border control systems?

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