

FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

To the: **COUNCIL**
COMMISSION

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
Oral Question with debate (Rule 42) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Question Time (Rule 43) <input type="checkbox"/>	Written Question (Rule 44) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority Written Question (Rule 44 (4)) <input type="checkbox"/>

AUTHOR(S): Alexander ALVARO, on behalf of the ALDE group

SUBJECT: (please specify) U.S. access to European police databases

TEXT:

According to media articles citing government sources in Vienna¹, Austria granted to the U.S. access to certain data held in the Austrian police databases. Previously the U.S. had threatened to exclude Austria from the "Visa Waiver Programme" (VWP) and to re-establish the visa requirement for Austrian citizens. In a letter, the U.S. imposed the deadline of 31 December 2010 to reach an agreement with the Austrian authorities on VWP and access to Austrian databases.

Can the Council confirm these reports? What was exactly mentioned in the letter? Is the Council planning to take steps to respond to the request of the United States' authorities? Which Member States have been confronted with similar requests? What is the status of the negotiations in this regard with the U.S.? Which countries have signed similar agreements with the US? In which countries did these agreements already enter into force? Are there any other expectations by the USA that are linked to the maintenance of the Visa Waiver Program?

Signature(s):

Date: 01.10.2010

¹ "Die Presse" (09/29/2010)