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## Visa requirements for members of the Assembly attending Assembly committee meetings

Written question No. 501 to the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers  
presented by Lord Russell-Johnston

Recalling that all delegate representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly are issued with a "Laissez-Passer" by the Secretary General of the Assembly which states, *inter alia*, that: "NO administrative or other restrictions shall be imposed on the free movement to and from the place of meeting of representatives to the Assembly and their Substitutes" and further that this "shall apply when they are attending or travelling to and from meetings of Committees and Sub-Committees of the Assembly".

To ask the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers:

1. Why therefore Turkey has requested that Visa applications be made in order to attend the Political Committee of the Assembly in Gaziantep from 11 to 12 September?
2. If he will list the other member states of the Council of Europe which make similar visa requirements a condition of attending an Assembly Committee?
3. What action he intends to take to terminate this practice which is in clear breach of the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities and its protocol?

*Signed* <sup>1</sup>:

Lord RUSSELL-JOHNSTON, United Kingdom, ALDE

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<sup>1</sup> SOC: Socialist Group  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EDG: European Democratic Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: not registered in a group