

Excerpts from the draft assessments by the European Commission of the implementation of the visa liberalisation roadmaps by Western Balkan countries

Presented and discussed at a meeting with member states' officials on 24 November 2008 in Brussels and subsequently sent to the Western Balkan governments. The excerpts below are quotes from the Commission assessments.

	Albania	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Macedonia	Montenegro	Serbia
Block 1: Document security	<p>“Some progress”</p> <p>“The introduction of biometric passports is foreseen in January 2009.”</p>	<p>“Some progress”</p> <p>“The introduction of biometric passports is foreseen in January 2010.”</p>	<p>“Very good progress”</p> <p>“Since April 2007, 321,831 travel documents corresponding to the new standards have been issued.”</p>	<p>“Very good progress”</p> <p>“Between 5 May and 8 October 2008, 55,339 passports were issued under the new system.”</p>	<p>“Progress”</p> <p>“So far more than 50,000 biometric travel documents have been personalised.”</p>
Block 2: Illegal migration incl. readmission	<p>“Some progress”</p>	<p>“Good progress”</p>	<p>“Good progress”</p>	<p>“Good progress”</p>	<p>“Some progress”</p>
Block 3: Public order and security	<p>“Considerable additional progress is still required across all policy areas in this block.”</p>	<p>“Considerable additional progress is still required in most policy areas of this block.”</p>	<p>“Substantial progress has been achieved in the policy areas covered under block 3.”</p>	<p>“Insufficient inter-agency cooperation and operational and investigative capacity remain obstacles to effective law enforcement.”</p>	<p>“Additional efforts are needed to comply with the requirements of the roadmap and to make further progress in these fields.”</p>
Block 4: External relations and fundamental rights	<p>“The legal framework... appears to be in place. ... Problems still remain.”</p>	<p>“Adequate legal framework... When it comes to implementation, some problems are being reported.”</p>	<p>“Adequate legal framework... The country should make further efforts to ensure continued progress...”</p>	<p>“Efforts are needed to further develop the legislation... Considerable efforts are still needed to ensure its proper functioning.”</p>	<p>“Legal framework... broadly in place... Some efforts for further progress are still needed as regards the implementation of the provisions.”</p>

Block 1: Document security

Machine-readable biometric passports; secure personalisation and distribution process; training programmes for officials; cooperation with Interpol Lost/Stolen Passports Database; secure breeder documents and ID cards

Block 2: Illegal migration including readmission

Efficient border management incl. appropriate legal framework; training programmes for officials; cooperation with FRONTEX; legislation on carriers' responsibility; appropriate asylum legislation; monitoring of migration flows; returnee reintegration strategy; measures against illegal migration; law on third-country nationals; expulsion of illegal third-country nationals

Block 3: Public order and security

Fight against organised crime, human trafficking, money laundering, financing of terrorism and terrorism; anti-drug policy; fight against corruption; judicial cooperation in criminal matters at international, EU and regional levels; cooperation with Eurojust; efficient law enforcement; cooperation between national law enforcement bodies and with judicial authorities; law enforcement cooperation at regional and EU levels; fight against cross-border crime; cooperation with Europol; personal data protection

Block 4: External relations and fundamental rights

Freedom of movement for all citizens; access to travel and ID documents for all citizens, IDPs and refugees; anti-discrimination legislation; specified conditions for acquiring citizenship; protection of minorities