Basic information	
2011/2053(DCE) DCE - Written declaration (historic)	Procedure completed
Declaration on the restoration of reciprocity in the visa regime - solidarity with the unequal status of Czech citizens following the unilateral introduction of visas by Canada **Subject** 7.10.04 External borders crossing and controls, visas **Geographical area** Canada Czechia	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/03/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0087/2011	Summary
08/03/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2011/2053(DCE)
Procedure type	DCE - Written declaration (historic)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136_
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Written declaration		T7-0087/2011	08/03/2011	Summary

Declaration on the restoration of reciprocity in the visa regime - solidarity with the unequal status of Czech citizens following the unilateral introduction of visas by Canada

2011/2053(DCE) - 08/03/2011 - Written declaration

The European Parliament adopted a Declaration on the restoration of reciprocity in the visa regime – solidarity with the unequal status of Czech citizens following the unilateral introduction of visas by Canada.

The European Parliament recalls that in July 2009 Canada unilaterally imposed a visa requirement for citizens of the Czech Republic, whose status is now therefore unequal to that of other citizens in the EU, and Canada, despite repeated calls to do so, has not given a date on which it will abolish this

visa requirement. It states that a further delay in the termination of the unequal status of Czech citizens could threaten the future ratification of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between the EU and Canada.

It considers that the Czech Republic cannot autonomously introduce a visa requirement for Canadian citizens and that overall the Commission and Council are not acting with sufficient forcibility in this matter.

Members call on the Commission and Council to increase political pressure on Canada in order to set the earliest possible date for abolishing the visa regime for Czech citizens as well as ending other breaches of visa reciprocity towards citizens of Bulgaria and Romania. It emphasises that unless this breach of reciprocity is resolved soon, equivalent retaliatory measures by the EU are likely to follow.

Lastly, Parliament calls on the Commission to establish, rather than bilateral arrangements, a new mechanism that guarantees full visa reciprocity for all Member States while ensuring that if a non-EU country breaches that visa reciprocity, all Member States will immediately restore the visa requirement for nationals of that country.