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**EU TO HOST MEETING ON VISA RECIPROCITY BETWEEN BULGARIA, ROMANIA, CANADA**

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European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, will host a meeting between government representatives of Bulgaria, Romania and Canada on Monday.

The meeting will address the lack of visa reciprocity between the EU and Canada.

At the meeting, Bulgaria will be represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Rumen Alexandrov and Deputy Interior Minister Philip Gounev.

The meeting will be also attended by Dragos Tudorache, Minister and Head of Prime Ministers Chancellery of Romania, as well as Canadian Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, John McCallum.

This development comes as Bulgaria and Romania have threatened to impose a veto on a trade agreement between the EU and Canada due to the refusal of Canada to lift visas for Bulgarian and Romanian citizens.

At the beginning of this week, the EU proposed to member states to sign the trade agreement with Canada.

During their meeting at the beginning of June, Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and his Romanian counterpart Dacian Ciolos discussed the possibility of adopting a common stance against the visa policy of Canada.

The expectations are that despite the objections, Bulgaria and Romania will ratify the trade agreement with Canada.

At the beginning of the year, Canada eased somewhat the visa regime towards the two countries, but for the time being it has been opposed to fully lifting them.

There are concerns that the lifting of visas would lead to many Bulgarians and Romanians arriving in Canada in search of jobs or seeking an entry into the USA.

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