

**Question for written answer E-006408/2014  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Josef Weidenholzer (S&D)**

Subject: Vojvodina

The military operations initiated by Hitler's Germany in the former Yugoslavia (the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs) seriously damaged and indeed put a lasting end to the hitherto peaceful cohabitation of different ethnic groups in the present-day province of Vojvodina in the Republic of Serbia. As a result, more than a million people living in the area, who had formerly been citizens of Austria, fled or were driven out or persecuted. Unlike in other regions of Europe, no systematic effort has ever been made to come to terms with this history. The following questions arise in connection with the European Union's accession negotiations with Serbia.

1. In the accession negotiations, is the Commission considering raising the issues that remain unresolved among Austrians formerly resident in Serbia, and what position is the Commission adopting in the accession negotiations with regard to the possible annulment of the AVNOJ (Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Yugoslavia) laws?
2. Is the Commission considering broaching any other unresolved problems, such as possible compensation payments to victims or the restitution of property on the basis of European standards?
3. Are there any Commission positions on protecting the people who have remained in the country, protecting graves and memorials, or recommendations on the reappraisal of past events with the aim of arriving at conclusions for the way in which history is taught?