

**Question for written answer E-006657/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Conference of Western Balkan States organised by Germany

On 28 August 2014, the German Government organised in Berlin a conference on the accession prospects of the western Balkan states attended by the countries of former Yugoslavia, Albania, selected EU Member States (France and Austria) and the Commission, represented by its President, Mr Barroso, and the Commissioner responsible for enlargement, Mr Füle.

Given that this event was organised completely outside the EU institutional framework:

1. Can the Commission say what institutional framework was chosen for this initiative by Germany, bearing in mind the existence of regional bodies such as the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), which enjoy active Commission support and funding?
2. What were the criteria for participation, given that the above regional organisations and their European members, including Greece, Bulgaria and Romania, were excluded, as was Italy, which currently holds the Council Presidency, and bearing in mind that the statement issued by the chair referred to bilateral issues such as the FYROM nomenclature, which is of direct concern to another Member State (Greece)?
3. On behalf of whom was the statement issued by the chair? Are references to government and business-sector initiatives by Germany alone in line with efforts to formulate a joint EU policy for south-eastern Europe?