

**Question for written answer E-009200/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jozo Radoš (ALDE)

Subject: Integrating the countries of the Western Balkans

Integrating the six countries of the Western Balkans into the European Union is in the interests of those countries and of the EU itself. The countries are geographically located within the European Union and share borders with five Member States. Integrating these countries would make transport within the EU easier and create the conditions for stability in the EU, particularly in its South East.

Some Western Balkan countries have major internal divisions and significant unresolved constitutional and status issues. Furthermore, due to historic, ethnic, religious and other reasons, they are closely interconnected. It will therefore be necessary to resolve these major interstate and political issues during the integration process, and it will not be enough to deal with state administration in a solely 'technical' manner in the individual Member States without looking at them as a whole.

This shows that the creation of an area of peace, stability and progress in the EU's South East requires the process of integrating the six Western Balkan countries to be comprehensive.

Is the Commission working on establishing a plan to integrate all six Western Balkan countries into the EU?