

**Question for written answer E-000756/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)**

Subject: Ban on same-sex marriage in Macedonia

In December 2005 the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was granted official candidate status for membership of the EU.

The government led by Nikola Gruevski, in a constitutional amendment approved by Parliament, has shored up the status of marriage in Macedonia to make it an exclusive right of heterosexual couples. This reform allows the exclusion and discrimination of LGTBI people who are living or would like to live under the protection associated with marriage.

The European Union is committed to respecting fundamental rights and not discriminating on grounds of sexual orientation, and, as was set out in the 'Lunacek report', approved on 4 February last year, this includes the rights of LGTBI people, rights which a State has to respect in order to become a member.

Against this background, I ask the Commission:

1. What will be the Commission's strategy with regard to Amendment XXXIII of the Constitution of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in relation to its status as an EU candidate country?
2. Does the Commission consider Amendment XXXIII of the Constitution of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to be compatible with the fundamental rights of European citizens?