

Question for written answer E-002755/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Bulgaria - Cooperation and Verification Mechanism

Since 2007, the Commission has granted EUR 51 million to Bulgaria under the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism to improve its justice system. The country will be given a further EUR 30 million for the period 2014-2020.

Despite this, the Commission found in its report of 28 January 2015 (SWD (2015) 9 final) that 'progress in terms of addressing judicial reform and making concrete advances on corruption and organised crime has been slow'.

An Amnesty International report of 9 February 2015 (EUR15/001/2015) said that Bulgaria's lack of adequate investigation of hate crimes and its lack of determination to prosecute the suspected perpetrators was fuelling fear, discrimination and, ultimately, violence. A number of specific instances are cited as evidence, and the claims are backed up ECRI (European Commission against Racism and Intolerance) report CRI(2014)36.

1. Is the Commission aware of violations of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Articles 2, 3, 4 and 21) and of the European Convention on Human Rights (Articles 2, 3, 5 and 14) in Bulgaria?
2. What measures does the Commission intend to take, in particular in the context of its aid for Bulgaria's justice system, to ensure that the Bulgarian judiciary can effectively prosecute hate crimes?