

**Question for written answer E-008011/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Tension in Macedonia

In Macedonia, clashes between the police and members of a group of armed ethnic Albanians over the weekend of 9 May left 22 dead. These clashes took place several weeks after a group of ethnic Albanian rebels briefly took possession, on 21 April, of a small police post on the northern border, demanding the creation of an Albanian state on Macedonian territory.

This fresh outbreak of tensions has aroused fears of conflict between the country's Slavic Orthodox majority and its Albanian Muslim minority, like that of 2001.

Macedonia has been a candidate for EU accession for 10 years and also wants to join NATO.

1. What is the Commission's stance on the situation in Macedonia?
2. What potential consequences would conflict have for Macedonia's EU accession process?