

**Question for written answer E-000907/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Political crisis in FYROM and failure of EU diplomacy

Last year, FYROM experienced its worst political crisis since 2001. The decision of the Prime Minister to step down, forcing early elections in April, and the manifest lack of political will to implement the agreed systemic reforms necessary to guarantee a fair and impartial electoral process, thereby infringing the terms of the Pržno Agreement, show that European diplomacy has clearly failed.

It must be remembered that this decision was taken in the face of protests from the opposition parties, which will not be taking part in the elections, ignoring the advice of independent electoral experts, 75 CSOs and the State Election Commission. Furthermore, the necessary reforms have not been adopted to ensure unimpeachable election procedures.

In this connection, Commissioner Hahn has submitted a written statement to the effect that the spirit and letter of the political process resulting from the political agreement is more important than dogmatic adherence to an election date.

In view of this:

1. What view does the Commission take of the delay in complying with international obligations to conduct democratic elections and the decision of the Prime Minister of FYROM to force through the election date in the teeth of vehement opposition?
2. What position will it adopt vis-à-vis any government returned to power by elections whose rectitude is already in doubt?
3. Can it be said that the spirit and letter of the Pržno agreement are being upheld concerning measures to end the political deadlock and ensure a return to the rule of law if the opposition parties do not even take part in the elections?