

Question for written answer E-006052/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: A prolonged pause in the EU's enlargement policy

In voting on 23 June 2016 for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, the British people sent a clear signal to the EU institutions that they should put a stop to policies criticised by EU citizens. These include the EU's enlargement policy.

However, instead of starting to reconsider our policies, essential in view of Brexit, negotiations on the accession of candidate countries have speeded up in recent weeks. The European Union and Serbia opened two new negotiation chapters on 18 July 2016, one on the judiciary and fundamental rights, and the other on justice, freedom and security. A new negotiation chapter was also opened with Turkey on 30 June 2016 against the background of the EU-Turkey Migration Agreement.

Jean-Claude Juncker, when nominated for the post of President of the European Commission in 2014, said there would not be any further enlargement of the EU in the next five years.

Will the Commission reiterate its commitment to a real and prolonged pause in the enlargement of the European Union? While reforms in countries neighbouring the EU must be encouraged, can the Commission nonetheless guarantee that none of the candidate countries will join the European Union in the next few years?