

**Question for written answer E-008609/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Measures by the Commission to protect the Greek minority in Albania

On 28 October, 19 families belonging to the Greek minority in Himara were given five days' notice to evacuate their homes which had been earmarked for demolition.

Given the EU's commitment to promoting respect for persons belonging to minorities, as set out in the 2012 strategic framework on human rights and democracy;

whereas respect for minorities lies at the heart of European policy on enlargement and is one of the pre-accession criteria which Albania is required to meet before accession negotiations can begin;

whereas Albania should strengthen the legal regime ensuring the protection of minorities, in particular the protection of the right to property;

whereas in its latest Albania progress report the Commission omits any reference to the Greek minority in Albania;

will the Commission say:

- Why did it omit any reference to the Greek minority in the latest Albania progress report?
- Does it consider that Albania's attitude is in line with European standards in dealing with minorities or with the pre-accession criteria that Albania is required to meet? Do these actions constitute a violation of the internationally recognised rights of minorities?
- What initiatives will the Commission take to protect the Greek minority and to ensure that Albania complies with the pre-accession conditions?