

**Question for written answer E-002255/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Franz Obermayr (ENF)**

Subject: Potential war in the Western Balkans

According to an article from Euractiv.de,<sup>1</sup> Commission President Juncker stated in an interview with the Financial Times that 'if the EU collapses, war will break out in the Western Balkans'. Additionally, he suggested that 'we must give countries in the region the prospect of joining the EU' so as to avoid war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia and Albania.

1. What potential for future conflicts does the Commission see that could result in war if these countries do not join the EU?
2. To what extent could conflict be averted by EU membership?
3. The Copenhagen criteria for full EU membership make no mention of the potential risk of war for the countries involved. To what extent can the President of the Commission's argument be factored into the accession process?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.euractiv.de/section/eu-aussenpolitik/news/juncker-wenn-die-eu-zerbricht-wird-es-krieg-im-westbalkan-geben/?nl\\_ref=34240023](http://www.euractiv.de/section/eu-aussenpolitik/news/juncker-wenn-die-eu-zerbricht-wird-es-krieg-im-westbalkan-geben/?nl_ref=34240023)