

**Question for written answer P-007273/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Bodil Ceballos (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Blood feuds in Albania

In its 2013 progress report on Albania, the Commission referred to the problem of blood feuds: 'The cases of children confined to their homes for fear of retribution in blood feud conflicts persist' (p. 43).

Parliament has also expressed concern about this very serious problem¹, as has the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE): 'The OSCE/ODIHR EOM was informed that over 1 000 families were disenfranchised due to the continued practice of traditional blood feud as they could not leave their places of shelter to apply for ID cards and/or vote.'²

The Albanian Committee of Nationwide Reconciliation reports that the number of blood feud murder cases has increased from 70 to 150 per year since 2008. The OSCE and others estimate that more than 1 000 families are affected.

Many Albanians now apply for asylum in other countries. During the summer, several Albanians who had applied for asylum in Sweden had their applications rejected.

1. How serious is the blood feud problem in Albania, which is a candidate country?
2. To what extent, and by what means, will the Commission address the blood feud problem?
3. Does the Commission believe that being under threat owing to a blood feud is a legitimate reason for an individual to seek asylum in the Member States?

¹ See paragraph 19 of Parliament's resolution of 12 December 2013 on the 2013 Progress Report on Albania.

² OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report, 2009, p. 11.