

**Question for written answer E-005168/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Śławomir Witold Nitras (PPE)

Subject: Croatia's accession to the European Union

The European Parliament has adopted a progress report on Croatia's preparations for accession to the European Union, its engagement with the process, and the implementation of rapid adjustments and reforms in the country. However, if Croatia fulfils all of the requirements and the text of the 'Declaration on the Fundamental Principles of Negotiations on Full Membership of the Republic of Croatia in the European Union' is amended and endorsed by the Croatian Parliament, it is the Croatians themselves who will ultimately decide, by way of a referendum, on whether they want to join the European family.

In this connection, and given that most Croatian citizens currently view the prospect of their country's accession to the EU in a negative light, does the Commission plan to take steps to promote and raise awareness of European issues in Croatia? Does the Commission intend to introduce any pre-accession aid instruments for Croatia?