

**Question for written answer E-006388/2012  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Barry Madlener (NI)**

Subject: Negotiations on Montenegro's accession to the EU

1. Is the Commission aware of the report<sup>1</sup> 'EU opent overleg toetreding Montenegro' [EU to open negotiations on accession of Montenegro]? Is it true, as reported, that the EU is to open accession negotiations with Montenegro on 29 June?
2. How can it be possible to begin accession negotiations with Montenegro while the country does not even meet the EU's own Copenhagen criteria<sup>2</sup>, which for example require a country to have stable institutions?
3. Does the Commission agree with the PVV that if a country has a seriously inadequate score on the Corruption Perceptions Index of Transparency International<sup>3</sup> – in this case a 4.0 – and is moreover ranked in a lamentable 107th place (out of 179) on the World Press Freedom Index of Reporters without Borders<sup>4</sup>, it ought not to seek accession to the EU? If not, why not?
4. What view does the Commission take of the fact that on 1 July 2013 Croatia is to become a member of the EU yet at the same time, like Montenegro, does not meet the EU's own Copenhagen criteria? For example, Croatia likewise has a seriously inadequate score on the Corruption Perceptions Index of Transparency International, namely 4.0.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.destentor.nl/nieuws/algemeen/buitenland/11289464/EU-opent-overleg-toetreding-Montenegro.ece>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.europa-nu.nl/id/vh7eg8yibqzt/criteria\\_van\\_kopenhagen](http://www.europa-nu.nl/id/vh7eg8yibqzt/criteria_van_kopenhagen)

<sup>3</sup> <http://cpi.transparency.org/cpi2011/results/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://en.rsf.org/IMG/CLASSEMENT\\_2012/CLASSEMENT\\_ANG.pdf](http://en.rsf.org/IMG/CLASSEMENT_2012/CLASSEMENT_ANG.pdf)