

**Question for written answer E-008070/2012  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Eduard Kukan (PPE)**

Subject: Impact of Croatia's EU entry on Bosnia and Herzegovina

Croatia is preparing for accession to the European Union on 1 July 2013. Needless to say, Croatia's accession will lead to changes in the regional market dynamics. Joining the EU will result in Croatia withdrawing from the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA).

Some studies have suggested that Croatia's EU entry will negatively affect bilateral trade relations between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a result of the loss of the preferential treatment principle.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission of the view that Bosnia and Herzegovina is ready to bear possible negative trade consequences following Croatia's accession to the EU?
2. Is the Commission aware of any existing viable strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina to minimise the negative effects of Croatia's EU accession?
3. Is the Commission planning, in the foreseeable future, to carry out an assessment of the potential economic consequences of Croatia's accession on neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina?