

**Question for written answer E-002746/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Monika Panayotova (PPE)

Subject: A Cooperation and Verification Mechanism exit strategy and Bulgaria's accession to Schengen

1. Bearing in mind that the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM) includes monitoring and assessment of measures to combat corruption, does the Commission not consider that, following the introduction from 2013 of the practice of preparing regular EU anti-corruption reports for each Member State (including those subject to the CVM), there will be a risk of overlap here? The question is particularly pertinent as the Commission stated in its July 2012 monitoring reports on Bulgaria and Romania that the necessary legal and institutional framework for justice and home affairs was already in place and that what was now needed was to assess the effectiveness of its application. Therefore, does the Commission not think that a 'CVM exit strategy' needs to be prepared and that the anti-corruption reports initiative needs to be turned into a tool for future cooperation and coordination with the relevant national authorities in the Member States?
2. Increasingly, in pre-election rhetoric in some Member States, the question of accession to Schengen is being linked to the CVM. Does the Commission consider that Bulgaria's accession to Schengen ought to be seen as an independent process which includes objective assessments of progress, without applying double standards and linking it to the CVM?