

**Question for written answer E-012936/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Jill Evans (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Treatment of patients with mental illnesses in Serbia

It has come to my attention that patients suffering from mental illnesses in Serbia have very few rights. There are reports of patients being verbally abused and slapped. Furthermore, reports state that patients are regularly and routinely restrained using mechanical means, in full view of other patients and without medical supervision. Given the status of Serbia as an EU candidate country, and the fact that the country is currently in talks with the EU over accession, may I take this opportunity to urge the Commission to take action to prevent these violations of human rights, which are an affront to democracy – a fundamental principle of the EU.

1. Does the Commission condemn the abuse of these patients by the Serbian establishments?
2. Does the Commission agree that action must be taken against those responsible for the abuse of these patients in Serbia?
3. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that the Serbian authorities respect citizens' human rights and improve the current situation of these patients?