

**Question for written answer E-000325/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Slavi Binev (EFD)**

Subject: Violation of basic rights and freedoms of the Bulgarian minority in Serbia

The Bulgarian minority in Serbia has been placed in an extremely difficult and unfair position, with fundamental rights and freedoms denied it. Serbia is failing to observe human rights and freedoms which are irrevocably associated with, and fundamental to, membership of the European Union. The Serbian state ought to respect the basic civil rights and freedoms set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. It is placing the Bulgarian minority under severe cultural, educational and social pressure, whereas it ought to: facilitate the teaching of Bulgarian in schools, rather than hindering it as it does at present; take steps to promote a Bulgarian-language curriculum; facilitate the dissemination of Bulgarian publications and radio and television programmes; stop the process of displacing the Bulgarian minority's cultural and historical heritage by changing the names of Bulgarian religious objects; and ensure that the preservation of the Bulgarian minority's cultural identity is not impeded. The Serbian authorities are indifferent to crimes against Bulgarians and are failing to punish the guilty parties.

1. What steps does the Commission intend to take to protect the rights and freedoms of the Bulgarian minority in Serbia?
2. Does the Commission intend to embark on pre-accession talks with a government that does not observe basic rights and freedoms?