

**Question for written answer E-001519/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: The Dutch veto of Albania's candidate status

Albania was due to acquire candidate status at the recent EU summit in December of last year. The European Commission has stated that the country is ready for this step. Nevertheless, the Dutch parliament has not approved the government proposal to grant Albania candidate country status. Negotiations with this Balkan country have therefore stalled, as decisions by heads of state within the EU must be unanimous.

Does the Commission have the competence to overrule the Netherlands' veto? How could accession negotiations with Albania move forward in a positive way?