

**Question for written answer E-001528/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)**

Subject: Albania and the European Union

The European Commission has stated that Albania has fulfilled the conditions to be granted the status of a European Union candidate country. Last December, however, the Dutch Government rejected the Albanian Government's application to be granted this status. It rejects the European Commission's recommendations and is thereby preventing further accession negotiations. Since decisions taken at the level of heads of states in the European Council must be unanimous, Albania's candidate status is thereby being vetoed by the Netherlands.

What is the Commission's position regarding the Netherlands' actions?

Is the European Commission planning to take specific measures in this respect and, if so, what exactly are these measures?

In the Commission's opinion, what is a realistic time frame for Albania to be granted the status of a European Union Member State?