

**Question for written answer E-001531/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)**

Subject: Serbia as a member of the European Union

Accession negotiations have recently officially begun between the European Union and Serbia. A negotiation framework has also been adopted. Challenging political debates between Serbia and the governments of all Member States, which have to act unanimously in all stages of the accession negotiations, will go on for several years. So far, Serbia's efforts to bring about reform have been impressive. However, the country must address many demanding issues, such as the enforcement of the rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights and basic freedoms, as well as mutual relations with other countries. Serbia expects accession negotiations to be concluded within five years.

In the Commission's opinion, is it realistic to expect the successful conclusion of accession negotiations within five years?