

**Question for written answer E-003465/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Małgorzata Handzlik (PPE)**

Subject: Purchase of agricultural property in Bulgaria - violation of the freedom of movement of capital

When it signed the Accession Agreement, Bulgaria undertook, from the moment it joined the EU, not to adopt any legal acts which would restrict the purchase of agricultural land, forests or woodland by citizens of other Member States.

I have been informed, however, that the Bulgarian Parliament has now introduced a requirement which makes it impossible for citizens from other Member States freely to purchase agricultural land after 1 January 2014. From that date on, purchasers must have been permanently resident in Bulgaria for three years to be entitled to make such a purchase.

1. Does the Commission believe that in introducing this requirement Bulgaria is acting in breach of the provisions of the Accession Treaty?
2. Is it aware of this development, and can it intervene?
3. Is it aware of similar practices in other Member States that are in breach of the principle of free movement of capital in the single market?