

**Question for written answer E-002205/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Chinese investment in the Western Balkans

On 12 April 2019, China and 16 eastern European states met for a summit in Dubrovnik (Croatia).

One of the topics covered was the 'new Silk Road' project, through which China is investing in European infrastructure. The loans that China has granted the Balkan states for that purpose could, however, upset their financial balance: according to *EurActiv*, Montenegro's acceptance of an EUR 809 million loan from the Export-Import Bank of China for the construction of a motorway has pushed its public debt beyond more than 70% of its GDP¹.

What is more, the projects financed are not consistent with the EU's priorities, particularly in the field of renewable energy. For example, *Euractiv* states that the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina has approved a state guarantee for a EUR 614 million Chinese bank loan to upgrade a coal-fired power station in Tuzla.

In view of the impact on the financial stability of the countries of the WB, does the Commission regard China's growing involvement in these countries – in particular through public procurement procedures for the above projects – as compatible with their possible future membership of the European Union?

¹ <https://www.euractiv.com/section/enlargement/news/dubrovnik-161-summit-rolls-the-red-carpet-for-china/>