

Question for written answer E-002334/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Virginie Joron (ID)

Subject: EUR 3.6 billion to Bosnia and Herzegovina to repay a Chinese loan

Since 1996, Brussels has paid out EUR 3.6 billion to Bosnia and Herzegovina¹, a country that was part of the former Yugoslavia. Like Turkey, this country is a candidate² for accession to the European Union. However, in March 2019, the majority Muslim entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina contracted a loan of EUR 614 million from a Chinese bank (EXIM) for a project to build a 450 MW coal-fired power plant.

A Commission representative has allegedly even confirmed that another Chinese loan, relating to the construction of motorways, was already putting the country's finances in difficulty.

This official stated that Bosnia and Herzegovina and the candidate countries had to comply with EU rules on energy and state aid and that this kind of agreement was not compatible with EU laws³.

How many euros will the Commission pay to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2019?

What impact will the subsidies have on job creation for European workers?

Will the Commission impose financial penalties on the Muslim entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina or will it accept that Brussels continues to be ignored, despite the funds disbursed?

¹ http://europa.ba/?page_id=558

² Bosnia and Herzegovina is a candidate to join the European Union, but technically, Brussels considers Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo to be 'potential candidates'.

³ Euractiv, 4 April 2019.