

**Question for written answer E-001929/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Julie Lechanteux (ID)

Subject: Montenegro — Caught between hostility to Serbia and the accession process

The Montenegrin Government has just turned down Serbia's offer to supply ventilators as part of a rapprochement between the two countries.

Montenegrin MP Andrija Mandić stated that Deputy Prime Minister Simović's decision to turn down Serbian medical aid amounted to a 'death sentence' for many coronavirus patients and that the Montenegrin Government's policy of ostracising Serbia could lead to a 'health disaster'.

The ventilators in question were intended primarily for hospitals in the north of the country, which have none.

This refusal of medical aid comes hard on the heels of the law on the dispossession of Serbian Orthodox Church property, adopted in December 2019, against which there have been demonstrations across the country.

This approach, uncooperative in general and anti-Serb in particular, is rather surprising from an EU candidate country.

Since the EU is keen to promote peace, stability and economic development in the Western Balkans, does the Commissioner for Enlargement believe that the conditions laid down in the legal framework on the accession of Montenegro, including by Articles 2 and 49 of the Treaty on European Union, are still being met?