Question for written answer E-005696/2020 to the Commission Rule 138 Željana Zovko (PPE)

Subject: Follow-up on the presentation of the Enlargement Package and the economic and

investment plan for the Western Balkans

Following up on the presentation on 6 October 2020 of the updated Commission Enlargement Package and the ambitious economic and investment plan (EIP) for the WB6, I would like to elaborate on the following issues that I mentioned in my intervention:

- 1. The idea of trade preferences for the WB6 does not necessarily fit into the infrastructure concept of the EIP. How does the Commission envisage the programming of this issue into the economic recovery activities, with the idea of starting to develop the concept for adoption at a later stage?
- 2. The 10 flagship investment clusters will strengthen the visibility of the EIP and the EU in general, but the clusters have overlooked the important social component. Education is featured in the 10th flagship, but other social segments, such as housing, health and the judiciary would enhance the value of the EIP. The health segment is crucial in the post COVID-19 recovery period, and support in the housing sector could lessen the emigration burden in the region. How will these segments be included in the future operational mechanisms?