

**Question for written answer E-006811/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dominique Bilde (ID)

Subject: Tensions between Serbia and Montenegro

On Saturday, 28 November, Serbia and Montenegro expelled each other's ambassadors.

This decision followed a meeting attended by Vladimir Bozovic, the Serbian Ambassador to Montenegro, at which he said that the 1918 decision by a Montenegrin assembly to unify Montenegro and Serbia was a 'liberation'.

28.7% of the Montenegrin people are Serbian and the referendum on Montenegro's independence, held on 21 May 2006, was only just approved with a majority of 55%, which was the threshold the European Union laid down for validation of the result.

The tensions between the two states were further exacerbated by the draft law on religion adopted on 16 May 2019, which establishes a register of all religious buildings built on State property before Montenegro was merged into the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in 1918, based on dissensions between the Serbian Orthodox Church (recognised by its peers) and the Montenegrin Orthodox Church.

What consequences will these tensions have on the negotiations with Montenegro, the state next in line for accession?