

Question for written answer E-001152/2021/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 138
Lukas Mandl (PPE)

Subject: Impartiality of EU mediators in the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue

On 22 February 2021 EU Special Representative for the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue Miroslav Lajčák gave an interview on the Dialogue to the 'European Western Balkans' web portal. In the background was a map of the Western Balkans which showed Kosovo as part of Serbia. Since the EU has a mediating role in the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue and a large majority of MEPs, Member States and EU partner countries have no doubts about Kosovo's statehood, the EU should maintain a neutral position and should in no way be perceived as biased.

1. Was the background selected by mistake? If so, what is the reason for a map of this kind being in use in an EU body?
2. Was the background selected deliberately? If so, why? Continually providing painful reminders of the suffering of the 20th century to people in the Western Balkan states should be avoided; rather, the suffering should be commemorated in a therapeutic way, by remembering the victims.
3. Will Mr Lajčák be able to continue to fulfil his special task of bringing the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue to a successful conclusion if he apologises to the citizens of the Western Balkan states, the European Parliament and the majority of the family of nations?