

**Question for written answer E-001980/2021/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)**

**Subject:** Violation of the Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of North Macedonia

On 1 August 2017, the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of North Macedonia signed the Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation. Article 3 of this treaty explicitly states that the two Contracting Parties will contribute to the development of cooperation between the countries of South-Eastern Europe, to the strengthening of understanding, peace and stability in the region and to the implementation of regional projects as part of the process of creating a united Europe. Furthermore, Article 11(1) stipulates that neither Contracting Party may take, incite or maintain any hostile actions against the other state.

In violation of this agreement, the Republic of Northern Macedonia has been funding the International Institute for Middle East and Balkan Studies (IFIMES), which is headed by Ziyad Bechirovich, Bakhtiyar Aliaf and Vlado Dimovski, advisers to Prime Minister Zoran Zaev. This non-governmental organisation publishes lies about Bulgaria and distorts the role of a leading factor in the integration of the Western Balkans.

1. Is the Commission aware of the activity of the government in Skopje?
2. What actions could the Commission take if such activities continue?