

**Question for written answer E-002291/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Albania's accession

On 14 April 2021, Commissioner Ylva Johansson termed organised crime one of the greatest dangers to society.¹

Organised crime based in the West Balkans operates internationally and earns billions.² It has close links with politicians. Albania, a candidate country, is a known narco-state, i.e. drug trafficking and political power are closely enmeshed with each other. The governing Socialist Party has been repeatedly accused of corruption and of having close ties with organised crime.

Albania supplies cannabis and cocaine to Germany, among other countries. In late 2010, Albanian nationals were exempted from visa requirements for travel to the EU. In 2019, in a political debate in the Dutch Parliament, politicians from various parties stressed that as a result of that decision, inter alia, organised crime had spread.³

1. At the time, prior to the visa waiver, did the Commission carry out an impact assessment relating to organised crime?
2. In the light of the spread of organised crime in Albania and the social consequences for EU citizens, is the Commission planning to reintroduce visa requirements?
3. What tangible progress has been made in combating drug trafficking and infiltration of political life by organised crime?

¹ Marina Strauss: 'Wie die EU das organisierte Verbrechen bekämpfen will', Deutsche Welle, 14 April 2021.

² Christoph Würthrich: 'Gangster und Politiker – Hand in Hand', SRF, 12 December 2020.

³ House of Representatives of The Netherlands: 'Debat over Albanese bendes in het criminele circuit in Nederland', 11 April 2019.