

**Question for written answer E-002874/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Marian-Jean Marinescu (PPE)**

**Subject:** Expropriations in the Republic of Serbia

Article 58 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and Article 8 of the Law on Expropriation clearly stipulate that expropriation is to be applied only in cases of public interest. However, Article 4 of the Law on Mining and Geological Research is in conflict with this, as it expands the right to expropriation also to 'an economic entity, in private or public ownership'.

The private company Zijin Mining Group, with Chinese capital and based in Bor, is taking advantage of the non-correlation between the constitutional norms and the secondary legislation regarding the legal right to expropriation, and is expropriating properties of Serbian citizens from the villages of Ostrelj, Krivelj, Slatina, Metovnica and Brestovac in Eastern Serbia.

Can the Commission state its view on the possible conflict between Article 4 of the Law on Mining and Geological Research and Article 8 of the Law on Expropriation and the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia?

Is the Commission aware of the situation in the above-mentioned villages, in terms of the right to private property and regarding the environmental damages caused by the mining activity in the region?