

**Question for written answer E-002965/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Angel Dzhambazki (ECR), Andrey Slabakov (ECR)**

Subject: Obstruction of the 'Send A Bulgarian book to Macedonia' initiative

Yesterday, 2 June 2021, at the Zlatarevo border crossing point in Petrich, entry to the Republic of North Macedonia was once again refused to a representative of the 'Send a Bulgarian book to Macedonia' initiative. During the course of the discussions with the officials at the border crossing, it became clear that the Customs Agency in Skopje had only established the necessary procedure for the Deve Bair border crossing point, and not for other border crossing points. Eventually, with the help of the Macedonian officials at the border crossing, the necessary arrangements were made, which means just one thing: ordinary people on either side of the border – and even the Macedonian officials at the border crossing – can speak the same language and help each other as part of a whole and as brothers, as they have always been, despite the provocations of the authorities in Skopje.

The actions of the authorities in Skopje not only violate the Friendship Treaty between Bulgaria and North Macedonia, but are also at odds with Skopje's application for EU membership. My questions are therefore:

1. When will the Commission take a stance on the provocations emanating from the authorities in Skopje?
2. Does the Commission still support the launch of the EU accession procedure for the Republic of North Macedonia, despite the existence of a vast number of discriminatory practices and the violation of the Friendship Treaty with Bulgaria?