

**Question for written answer E-003380/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Traian Băsescu (PPE)**

Subject: Cooperation and Verification Mechanism

The Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM) for Bulgaria and Romania was established upon their accession to the European Union in 2007 as a transitional measure to facilitate judicial reform and the fight against corruption. The Mechanism is a joint undertaking between the two Member States and the EU. In the case of Romania, the Mechanism ends once the four benchmarks (with 20 recommendations) have been satisfactorily met. After 14 years of CVM, Romania still has 17 outstanding recommendations and has met no benchmarks. This lack of progress is testimony to the CVM's ineffectiveness.

In the meantime, the Commission has launched the new rule of law monitoring system applicable to all Member States, including Romania and Bulgaria. Both instruments have the same objectives and require double the consumption of resources to achieve the same result. The way they operate is similar: annual evaluation reports based on the collection of information at administrative level and from civil society.

1. What are the Commission's arguments for maintaining two similar monitoring systems that unnecessarily consume resources in times of crisis?
2. Why does the Commission maintain the CVM, which has not achieved any significant results in 14 years? What concrete actions is the Commission taking to make the CVM more effective and complete as a matter of urgency?