

**Question for written answer E-005362/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Rule of law and justice for all in North Macedonia

North Macedonia's record of inhumane prison conditions and police brutality should warrant the introduction of targeted conditions for EU support. The Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture described the country's largest prison as having 'inhumane and degrading conditions' and said that police brutality is a persistent issue (May 2021).

In June 2021, the European Court of Human Rights ruled against the Republic of North Macedonia that a citizen of Roma ethnicity, Fatmir Memedov, had been subjected to racially motivated police brutality.

Furthermore, an ongoing case at the European Court of Human Rights has petitioned against the pretrial detention of Jordan Kamchev, a businessman suffering from a congenital heart disease. He is accused of white-collar crimes, but has been held under life-threatening conditions. The trial is allegedly unlawful (complaint based on secret service notice, potentially biased supervising prosecutor, eight prolongations of the 30-day detention period, abuse of the detainee's pictures by the ruling party in recent elections, etc.). In spite of several independent cardiological recommendations, the authorities have refused to allow the detainee to continue his sentence under house arrest.

1. How is the Commission planning to tailor EU support to North Macedonia in order to eliminate repeated violations of human rights?
2. How is it planning to support the improvement of policing methods in North Macedonia, given the evidence of racially motivated police brutality?
3. Will it monitor the trial of Mr Kamchev through the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of North Macedonia and call on the North Macedonian authorities to fully respect the European Convention on Human Rights?