

Question for written answer E-000154/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Julie Lechanteux (ID)

Subject: EU support for the rule of law in the Western Balkans: no tangible results

According to a special report published on 10 January 2022 by the Court of Auditors on EU support for the rule of law in the Western Balkans, the EU provided EUR 700 million over the 2014-2020 period in this area, through the instrument for pre-accession in particular, without any tangible results.

A damning conclusion, although the report shows that Serbia has made remarkable progress, but that part of the report is not, in our opinion, objective.

The report states that 'corruption remains a cause of concern in all countries in the region. Transparency International reports that criminal justice systems often fail to investigate, prosecute and sanction high-level corruption cases effectively. Those who are convicted often receive disproportionately light sentences'.

It also says that 'in Albania, attempted interference with the judiciary, including by authorities within the judiciary, and internal and external pressure on prosecutors remain an issue'.

In the light of the above and given the slow pace of progress, how does the Commission plan to proceed with the enlargement process?