

**Question for written answer E-001544/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)

Subject: Obstruction of the free movement of people between Bulgaria and North Macedonia

Once again the public authorities of North Macedonia are creating obstacles to the free movement of people between Bulgaria and North Macedonia.

Without any legal basis, the border authorities are trying to prevent the entry of a Bulgarian from North Macedonia (who has dual nationality) and his vehicle, which has a Bulgarian registration¹.

The inspection and conversation between the border authorities and the citizen lasted for 20-30 minutes. In the end, thanks to his good knowledge of the law and his will to enter his homeland, he managed to cross the border.

Unfortunately, this is one of the thousands of examples of these 'habits' of border authorities, who are not allowing Bulgarian vehicles into North Macedonian territory. Meanwhile, all sorts of politicians continue to say that everything is fine and that EU accession negotiations should start as soon as possible.

I would remind these people that the free movement of people, goods and capital is a fundamental principle of the Union. It should also be emphasised that the public authorities of North Macedonia ought to be upholding the commitment to encourage freedom and development of bilateral relations in all areas.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of the practices of the border authorities of North Macedonia?
2. What actions will the Commission take to end these practices, which are clearly contrary to EU principles?

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/petar.kolev.585/posts/10219970831333458>.