The Commission is following closely the developments as well as responses to them. It does not comment on ongoing investigations or judicial proceedings.

As mentioned in the 2021 enlargement package\(^1\), North Macedonia continues to fulfil the conditions to open accession negotiations. The Intergovernmental Conference opening the accession negotiations process with North Macedonia took place on 19 July 2022, following the approval by the Council of the Negotiating Framework. The Commission has started the screening exercise immediately.

Existing bilateral agreements, including the Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation with Bulgaria, need to be implemented in good faith by all parties.

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\(^1\) COM(2021) 644 final.