

**Question for written answer E-000757/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Thijs Reuten (S&D)

Subject: Largest-ever EU grant to Serbia despite its obstruction of the EU-facilitated Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue

On 28 February 2023, the Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement presented a EUR 2.2 billion financial support package, which included EUR 600 million in grants, to the Republic of Serbia. This is the largest EU grant that Serbia has ever received.

While speaking at the press conference, the Commissioner referred to Serbia, which is becoming increasingly authoritarian, as a 'friend' and to the day itself as 'remarkable' and 'very symbolic'.

That same night, the President of Serbia went on national television to proclaim his unwillingness to sign the EU-brokered agreement on the path to normalisation between Kosovo and Serbia, which had been reportedly agreed upon just the previous day and which the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo had been ready to sign.

1. In the light of the Serbian President's refusal to sign the EU proposal, does the Commission share the assessment that the timing of the Commissioner's visit to Serbia, his laudatory remarks and the awarding of the aforementioned grant risk signalling that the EU endorses Serbia's obstructionism?
2. What steps will the Commission take to encourage Serbia to sign the EU proposal?
3. Will it suspend disbursements to Serbia under the economic and investment plan until the Serbian President signs and demonstrates credible commitment to implementing the EU proposal?

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