

**Question for written answer E-001130/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Support for North Macedonia

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has proposed to the Parliament and the Member States to support Northern Macedonia by providing macro-financial assistance of up to EUR 100 million. The rationale for this is North Macedonia's poor balance of payments owing to its dependence on imported electricity and fuels. This raises a number of questions:

1. Why has North Macedonia been singled out for aid when high electricity and fuel prices constitute an enormous burden on the entire European continent and beyond?
2. What is the total amount of financial contributions that the EU has made to Member States, third countries, etc. since the beginning of the war in Ukraine?
3. North Macedonia has already been a candidate country for accession to the EU for a number of years. Do these additional payments to it not distort North Macedonia's actual financial situation, particularly with regard to possible accession negotiations and its GDP-to-debt ratio?

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