

Question for written answer E-002779/2023

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Charlie Weimers (ECR)

Subject: Clarification regarding remarks indicating that 10 more countries could join the EU by 2030

On 31 August 2023, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), Josep Borrell Fontelles, stated¹ that the EU should 'be prepared for an enlargement that could add 10 more members'. The President of the European Council, Charles Michel, has suggested 2030 as a target date for the proposed accession².

1. Could the VP/HR specify which countries he had in mind for accession when making these remarks, and what assessments and analysis they were based on?
2. Were the remarks intentional and had they been cleared with the full College of Commissioners beforehand?
3. Given the current geopolitical landscape, could the VP/HR elaborate on how this enlargement strategy aligns with the EU's foreign policy objectives and whether the prospective accession countries would add strategic value or further complications?

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¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/informal-foreign-affairs-council-gymnich-press-remarks-high-representative-josep-borrell-press_en.

² <https://www.politico.eu/article/european-commission-snob-charles-michel-2030-enlargement-target>.