

**Question for written answer E-002985/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: ECtHR ruling in the *Kovačević v Bosnia and Herzegovina* case

Yesterday's decision by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in the *Kovačević v Bosnia and Herzegovina* case concluded that the European Convention on Human Rights had been violated. More specifically, the ECtHR found that Bosnia and Herzegovina's current political system rendered ethnic representation more relevant than political, economic, social, philosophical and other considerations, thus amplifying ethnic divisions in the country and undermining the democratic character of its elections. Given this:

1. Does the Commission agree that ECtHR rulings must be implemented, and what consequences does the EU intend to impose on Bosnian officials who refuse to implement ECtHR rulings or who block their implementation?
2. Can the Commission provide Parliament with a detailed analysis of this ruling and its consequences for the constitutional and electoral framework of Bosnia and Herzegovina?
3. Can the Commission confirm that it will update the annual progress report on Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is due for publication this autumn, to take into account this ruling, including its possible effect on the reforms that are to be undertaken as part of Bosnia and Herzegovina's path to EU membership?

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