

**Question for written answer E-003262/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: European Court of Human Rights ruling confirming ethnic discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina's electoral system

In the chamber judgment in the case of *Kovačević v Bosnia and Herzegovina*, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) found discriminatory treatment in breach of Article 1 of Protocol No 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights. The case looked at the right to participate in elections of both the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and of the Presidency by exercising active voting rights and the right to vote freely for every preferred candidate without ethnic or territorial limits.

1. Does the Commission agree that a direct implication of the judgment is that BiH must become one electoral unit with regard to elections of the Presidency and House of Peoples, to ensure that every citizen has the right to decide where to vote and for whom?
2. How does the Commission plan to integrate the verdict into BiH's EU accession process, notably the 14 key priorities?
3. Over the past years, intensive EU-led negotiations to implement five earlier key ECtHR verdicts have not led to tangible results, as parties' deviating political interests have led to proposals that further entrenched ethnic division. In the light of these still-existing party interests, how does the EU plan to overcome this impasse and ensure the swift and full implementation of all relevant ECtHR verdicts?

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