

**Question for oral answer O-000024/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 136

Adrián Vázquez Lázara

on behalf of the Committee on Legal Affairs

Subject: Ukraine's accession to the Convention of 2 July 2019 on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Civil or Commercial Matters

Ukraine has signed and ratified the Convention of 2 July 2019 on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Civil or Commercial Matters ('Judgments Convention'), which has also been signed by Uruguay, Israel, Costa Rica, Russia and the United States. The Judgments Convention enters into force one year after the first two parties deposit their instruments of ratification/accession. The European Union acceded to it and Ukraine ratified it in August 2022. If the EU tacitly accepts Ukraine's accession to the Judgments Convention, it will enter into force on 1 September 2023.

Parliament understands that the Commission's assessment of Ukraine's accession is positive and that the Commission would be in favour of tacitly accepting it. Nevertheless, the current situation, in which two sides of a war happen to be signatories of a new Convention to which the EU is a party and that is entering into force now, calls for an explicit statement accepting Ukraine's accession. Such a statement would reflect the EU's geopolitical relevance in the current circumstances and emphasise the political significance of the decision. In full respect of each EU institution's prerogatives, a statement would allow the Commission to tacitly accept Ukraine's accession to the Judgments Convention on the EU's behalf, under the relevant provisions of that Convention.

Given the deadline set down in the Judgments Convention, the need for the institutions to act without delay to ascertain the EU's acceptance of Ukraine's accession to the Convention and Parliament's intention to make an appropriate statement in this regard, could the Commission confirm its assessment of Ukraine's accession to the Convention?

What steps does the Commission intend to take in future to ensure that Parliament's prerogatives relating to third countries' accession to the Judgments Convention are always fully and formally respected under the Treaties?

Submitted: 9.5.2023

Lapses: 10.8.2023