

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2315/08
by Dushana Zdravkova (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Disregard of Commission recommendations in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security

This question has been prompted by the concerns expressed by various European bodies and Commission President Barroso during his last visit to Bulgaria.

Like the Commission representatives, the Bulgarian public are extremely concerned by events in recent months in Bulgaria. These show, primarily, that the competent Bulgarian institutions are incapable of combating organised crime. They are also causing destabilisation of the judicial system, domestic policy and overall government activity. Thirdly – but no less importantly – they reduce the faith of Bulgarians in their country's institutions and the ability of European bodies to influence them.

These problems demand special attention first and foremost because we are responsible for the security, health and life of Bulgarian as for other citizens.

In this context, and taking into account the Commission response to an earlier question from the Bulgarian PPE-DE group members concerning the Kuyovich case, I seek answers to the following questions:

- Does the Commission intend to introduce measures to improve standards during the expert missions which, according to Mark Gray, will be sent to Bulgaria this month and next as part of the preparation of the next report on this matter? If so, what measures?
- How might Bulgarian citizens find out in good time what information is being presented to the Commission by the Bulgarian institutions? This would lead to increased visibility and transparency of their activities.
- Are there plans for the Commission experts to meet with representatives of Bulgarian NGOs in order to find out how they view the problems, particularly as the NGOs have for years been undertaking studies and drawing up analyses and recommendations for the institutions which, however, have so far not been taken into account?

This information is crucial when one considers that, in spite of clear conclusions and recommendations delivered to the Bulgarian institutions by the Commission, no concrete results have yet been achieved.

As a representative of Bulgarian citizens in the European Parliament, I wish to prevent their having to bear the consequences of irresponsible behaviour and breaches of obligations by Bulgarian government institutions.