

**Question for written answer P-009045/2013/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 117
Bernd Posselt (PPE)**

Subject: Trials of former Croatian Prime Minister Sanader

The trials of former Prime Minister Ivo Sanader held to date in Croatia have been neither fair nor free. They have been conducted in an atmosphere of intimidation and on the basis of unreliable testimony, witnesses for the defence have been arbitrarily excluded, and there has been a backdrop of media prejudice, amongst other serious shortcomings. In addition, sentences issued eight months ago have still not been formalised in writing, although this should be done within one month under Croatian law. As a result, there has been no possibility to lodge an appeal, even though Sanader has been sitting in prison ever since.

Has the Commission been informed about these serious shortcomings in the judicial system, specifically in this case?

Has Croatia implemented the EU judicial cooperation directives, and are the proceedings described compatible with EU law?