

**Question for written answer P-001676/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**George Lyon (ALDE)**

Subject: Scotland's EU membership

In light of Scotland's upcoming independence referendum, could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. on average, how long did accession negotiations take to complete for countries which joined the EU from 1995 onwards?
2. could a territory which is negotiating secession from a Member State begin negotiations for EU membership before a final agreement on the terms and conditions of the secession is reached between the two separating countries?
3. can the Commission confirm that the 12 newest Member States have joined, or are required to join, the Schengen area? Could the Commission provide the text which sets out the legal requirements which oblige Member States to join the Schengen area and the eurozone?