

**Priority question for written answer P-004483/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Andor Deli (NI)

Subject: Is the European Commission planning to impose a visa requirement on Serbian nationals?

The visa requirement for entry to the Member States was rescinded for Serbian nationals 12 years ago, in 2009.

Serbia has been an EU candidate country since 2012. Negotiations on 18 of the 35 chapters have been opened and in two cases have been closed.

It is a key country in the Western Balkans region in every respect.

However, serious media channels have recently carried stories stating that the European Union is preparing to reintroduce the visa requirement for a number of countries in the region, including Serbia, at the suggestion of several influential countries.

So doing would send the wrong kind of message to the people of the region and would not facilitate the soonest-possible EU membership of Serbia or other countries in the region.

1. Is there any truth in the story that the Commission is preparing to reintroduce the visa requirement for Serbian nationals entering the EU?
2. What action is the Commission taking to ensure that this does not happen?
3. What is the Commission doing to ensure that the procedure for Serbia to join the European Union is speeded up rather than slowed down?