Priority question for written answer P-000433/2022 to the Commission
Rule 138
Emil Radev (PPE), Andrey Kovatchev (PPE), Andrey Novakov (PPE), Asim Ademov (PPE), Eva Maydell (PPE), Alexander Alexandrov Yordanov (PPE), Angel Dzhambazki (ECR), Andrey Slabakov (ECR)

Subject: Closure of the Specialised Court and Public Prosecutor’s Office in Bulgaria

The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria has firmly stated its intention to close the Specialised Public Prosecutor’s Office and the Specialised Criminal Courts there. These bodies have been backed and approved by the Commission, and their abolition would be a step backwards in the fight against organised crime. The Prosecutor General’s Office of the Republic of Bulgaria has requested the Commission to provide independent expert assistance in evaluating the work of the Specialised Court and Public Prosecutor’s Office. It submitted a formal request to that end in January 2022 through the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance, which is the national coordinating body for applications for support under the Technical Support Instrument managed by the DG for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM).

In this connection,

1. Has the request from the Bulgarian Public Prosecutor’s Office for assistance, under the Technical Support Instrument, in conducting an independent expert evaluation of this matter of the Specialised Court and Public Prosecutor’s Office, which is of significant public interest, been forwarded by the Bulgarian Government?

2. Is the Commission, in the shape of DG REFORM, prepared to assist in conducting this independent expert evaluation of the work of the Specialised Court and Public Prosecutor’s Office and to make recommendations as to their future reform?

3. What impact does the Commission think the closure of these specialised bodies would have as regards the fight against organised crime and the rule of law mechanism?