

**Priority question for written answer P-001555/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Johan Van Overtveldt (ECR)**

Subject: Pre-accession assistance to the Republic of Serbia

On 1 March 2012, the European Council granted the Republic of Serbia the status of candidate country for accession to the European Union.

As such, the country also receives pre-accession assistance. In the period 2014-2020, this assistance was to the tune of EUR 1.539 billion. On 15 December 2021, EUR 122 140 000 were granted to the candidate country.

In the accession progress reports it can be seen that there has been a lack of progress on issues such as concentration of power, political interference and corruption. A recent report by the European Court of Auditors, dated 10 January 2022, confirms this finding.

Meanwhile, we are seeing that, unlike other candidate countries in the Balkans, the country is not aligning itself with the EU's foreign policy towards Russia, which was formulated in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022.

1. How does the European Commission assess the Republic of Serbia's conduct?
2. In the light of the comments made in the accession progress reports, the report of the European Court of Auditors and the country's policy vis-à-vis the Russian Federation, does the European Commission still consider it appropriate to grant pre-accession assistance to the Republic of Serbia?