

**Priority question for written answer P-002064/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** The registration of Russian citizens and the establishment of Russian-owned businesses in Serbia

Since the outbreak of the all-out Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, 219 153 Russian citizens have come to Serbia. Officially, only around 30 000 Russian citizens currently have an approved permit for a temporary stay in Serbia. Meanwhile, the Government of Serbia has announced changes to the Citizenship Law that entail Serbian citizenship being obtained after only one year of uninterrupted residence in the country. The number of companies and entrepreneurs from Russia in Serbia grew in the first four months of 2023 by 37 % compared to the same period last year. Russians own or have founded a total of 6 976 companies in Serbia.

1. Will the Commission look into the purpose of these Russian-owned companies in Serbia and the extent to which they might serve as a means of circumventing EU sanctions against Russia?
2. Has the Commission, primarily its Directorates-General for Justice and Consumers and for Migration and Home Affairs, established contact with the Serbian authorities with the aim of monitoring the entry of Russian citizens to Serbia?
3. Will the Commission verify whether the amendments to the Serbian Law on Citizenship are in line with EU *acquis* and standards, including the visa-free regime?

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