

**Question for written answer E-000237/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Reported use of animal testing for acoustic devices in Serbia

Recent media reports indicate that Serbian authorities permitted the testing of high-decibel acoustic devices on animals. The use of animal testing for equipment designed to cause pain, distress or disorientation raises serious concerns regarding animal welfare and ethical standards.

Serbia is an EU candidate country and is therefore expected to progressively align with EU legislation and principles, including those enshrined in Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which recognises animals as sentient beings and requires full regard to animal welfare in policymaking.

1. Has the Commission requested clarification from the Serbian authorities regarding the reported use of animal testing for high-decibel acoustic devices, and does it consider such practices to be compatible with EU animal welfare standards applicable to candidate countries?
2. How does the Commission ensure that candidate countries refrain from practices involving the use of animals in ways that are incompatible with EU animal welfare standards, including those applicable to scientific or technical testing?
3. Will the Commission address this issue in its ongoing monitoring of Serbia's alignment with EU values and legislation, and, if so, what concrete steps will be taken to ensure that animal welfare considerations are fully integrated into Serbia's accession process?

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