

**Question for written answer E-003402/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Stanislav Stoyanov (ESN)

Subject: Approval of Bulgaria's accession to the euro area and reliability of the Commission's budgetary forecasts

According to Eurostat data, Bulgaria's budget deficit increased to 3.5 % of GDP in 2025, compared with 2.0 % in 2023 and 3.0 % in 2024. Over the same period, government debt rose from 22.9 % to 29.9 % of GDP.

Despite this deterioration, the European Commission concluded in its June 2025 Convergence Report that Bulgaria meets the budgetary requirements for joining the euro area. The Commission based its conclusion on forecasts indicating that the deficit for 2025 would decline to 2.8 %.

This raises serious questions regarding the reliability of the assessment and the consistent application of Article 126 TFEU, which requires the Commission to monitor compliance with budgetary discipline.

1. How does the Commission assess its decision to approve Bulgaria's accession to the euro area on the basis of forecasts that subsequently proved to be materially inaccurate?
2. Does the Commission have rules or procedures for reviewing approval to join the euro area where the forecasts underpinning that approval subsequently prove materially inaccurate and, if not, does it consider such rules necessary?
3. How does the Commission ensure that budgetary requirements are applied consistently across all Member States, and can it provide specific examples to substantiate this?

Submitted: 1.9.2026