

**Question for written answer E-003755/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

Charlie Weimers (ECR), Beatrice Timgren (ECR), Dick Erixon (ECR)

Subject: A moratorium on EU enlargement to the Western Balkans for 10 years

The EU is facing hybrid threats, migration pressures, organised crime and persistent rule-of-law challenges. Several candidate countries in the Western Balkans are themselves affected by foreign interference. The Commission has acknowledged that a larger EU could require additional resources, complicate decision-making and produce unintended consequences¹.

Against this background:

1. Does the Commission consider that further accession negotiations with candidate countries in the Western Balkans should be suspended for at least 10 years?
2. If not, what objective evidence supports the Commission's assessment that the EU currently has the institutional, financial and security capacity to admit additional Member States without weakening its internal stability, border management or ability to take decisions?
3. Under what security-related circumstances would the Commission recommend the suspension or reversal of accession negotiations, particularly where a candidate country does not exercise effective control over its territory or borders or is particularly vulnerable to foreign interference and organised crime?

Submitted: 18.9.2026

¹ Commission communication of 20 March 2024 on pre-enlargement reforms and policy reviews (COM(2024)0146).