

**Question for written answer E-003987/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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

Subject: Added value of appointing Commissioners from accession countries ahead of their EU membership

Based on internal Commission documents, the Commission is considering allowing countries in the process of EU accession, such as Montenegro and Albania, to designate European Commissioners after they have signed an accession treaty but before all 27 Member States have completed national ratification. Such Commissioners could participate in meetings of the College and contribute to shaping EU legislation¹.

The College of Commissioners currently consists of one Commissioner from each Member State, while accession countries may participate as observers without voting rights²³.

Against this background:

1. What is the Commission's justification for the inclusion of Commissioners from Albania and Montenegro in the College of Commissioners before accession?
2. What added value would Commissioners from countries that are not members of the EU provide to citizens and taxpayers in Member States, and what would be the estimated budget impact of adding Commissioners from Albania and Montenegro?
3. What Treaty provision provides the legal basis for a national of a non-Member State to participate as a Commissioner in shaping EU legislation before their country's accession?

Submitted: 2.10.2026

¹ Rapporteur, www.rapporteur.com/news/exclusive-candidates-could-get-a-commissioner-before-joining-eu/.

² Treaty on European Union, Article 17(5).

³ Europeiska kommissionen, https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/glossary_sv.