

**Question for written answer E-004004/2026  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)**

**Subject:** Unacceptable statements by the President of the European Commission in Skopje

On her recent visit to Skopje, the President of the European Commission made the following statement in her speech: ‘We welcome North Macedonia with its identity and its language. We believe that the Macedonian culture and language can only make our Union richer.’

The president made two careless mistakes here: a historical one and cultural one. She should know that the Macedonian civilisation of Alexander Great bears no connection with the current state – located within the same region – and its inhabitants. Comintern created this state in 1932, for the first time raising the issue of the recognition of a separate ‘Macedonian nation’. The current inhabitants of Skopje are of Slavic descent and came to the Balkan region in the 5th and 6th centuries AD.

Alexander the Great was a Greek king of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedonia. He succeeded his father, Philip II, to the throne in 336 BC, when he was just 20. By the age of 30 he had built one of the greatest empires in history and was considered one of the greatest military commanders.

The ‘Macedonian’ language, meanwhile, is a dialect of Bulgarian.

What is the Commission’s stance regarding its president’s remarks?

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