

Question for written answer E-004225/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE)

Subject: EU enlargement: is the Commission looking to circumvent the Member States' right of veto?

In its communication of 6 October 2026 entitled 'Preparing for a wider Union'¹, the Commission called for broader use of qualified majority voting, in the name of efficient decision-making in a wider Union.

In particular, it recommends abolishing the unanimity requirement for opening clusters and other intermediary decisions in accession negotiations. It also encourages the use of passerelle clauses to extend the use of qualified majority voting into particularly sensitive areas, including defence, economic sanctions, certain tax issues and social protection.

These guidelines risk depriving Member States of an essential means of defending their national interests. While unanimity remains a legal prerequisite for any final accession, the Commission is proposing to move away from the practice in several decisions preceding this step.

1. How does the Commission justify its intention to restrict the use of unanimity in areas that are so sensitive to the sovereignty of Member States, especially when future enlargements could have serious economic, budgetary and strategic consequences for their populations?
2. How can it guarantee that this extension of qualified majority voting will not be used to circumvent the opposition of Member States and impose decisions contrary to their national interests, for the sole reason of facilitating further enlargement?

Submitted: 16.10.2026

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_2075.