

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001946/24
to the Commission
Marieke Ehlers (Pfe)
(3 October 2024)**

Subject: Contradictory information from the Commission on Treaty change

In the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Conference on the Future of Europe (COM(2022) 404 of 17 June 2022), the Commission stated that it would ‘always be on the side of those who want to reform the European Union to make it work better, including through Treaty change [...]’.

On 18 September 2024, however, in response to minister Marjolein Faber’s letter, in which the Netherlands formally requested an opt-out from European migration policy in the event of a subsequent Treaty change, the Commission stated that no Treaty change was planned.

1. Does the Commission intend to go back on its communication of 17 June 2022, which backed Treaty change initiatives?
2. Has the Commission decided, accordingly, that it is not going to abide by the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe and, hence, that it no longer wants to be involved in the process of initiating Treaty change?
3. Has the Commission decided, accordingly, that no candidate countries will join the EU during the 2024-2029 parliamentary term, given that accession agreements allow Member States to opt out of certain European policies?

Submitted: 3.10.2024

**Answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(10 January 2025)**

The Commission takes the view that treaty change is needed where it can improve the EU, as the President of the Commission made clear in her political guidelines 2024-2029.

As regards the procedure set out in Article 48 of the Treaty on European Union, the Commission is ready to fully play its institutional role, and in particular to give its opinion if and when consulted by the European Council, which received concrete proposals from the Parliament in December 2023.

The Commission thinks that the EU needs an ambitious reform agenda to ensure the proper functioning of a larger EU and the EU must use enlargement as a catalyst for progress in terms of its capacity to act. Both the EU and future Member States should be ready at the time of accession.

The Commission recalls that the accession process is merit-based and fully dependent on the objective progress achieved by each enlargement partner.

Therefore, there are no pre-determined timelines. Furthermore, accession treaties are based on Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union and regulate the conditions of admission and the adjustments to the Treaties, which such an accession entails.
