

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002940/25
to the Commission
Riho Terras (PPE), Davor Ivo Stier (PPE), Merja Kyllönen (The Left)
(16 July 2025)**

Subject: Clarification regarding the lifting of measures against Kosovo

We would like the Commission to clarify the procedure for lifting the measures against Kosovo.

1. Is a unanimous vote by the Council required to approve the lifting of the measures and what kind of procedure applies in this case, given that these measures are not sanctions that need to be renewed by unanimity every six months? Furthermore, to our knowledge, no vote took place in the Council when the measures were imposed in 2023.
2. Could the Commission share any information it has on the impact of the EU measures — such as details of which programmes were suspended and an estimate of how many projects were affected by the freezing of funds under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance?
3. Last but not least: have the measures against Kosovo been successful in the opinion of the Commission, and what has the European Union achieved by implementing these measures?

Submitted: 16.7.2025

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(25 August 2025)**

The Council has been actively involved since the EU imposed measures on Kosovo* in June 2023. In its December 2024 conclusions ⁽¹⁾, it stated that these measures would be lifted gradually as Kosovo takes steps to reduce tensions in the north.

The Council plays a key role in offering political guidance and must stay updated on developments and progress related to lifting the measures.

As part of the measures, the work of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) bodies has been put on hold, the programming of funds under the Instrument for pre-Accession Assistance and Western Balkans Investment Fund projects suspended, as well as procurement procedures and the signing of new contracts ⁽²⁾.

The measures do not affect payments under the Reform and Growth Facility (RGF), EU funding for civil society the participation of Kosovo in EU and cross-border cooperation programmes. The Commission has also applied a constructive approach for projects in support of the EU-facilitated Dialogue ⁽³⁾.

The suspended EU assistance amounts to EUR 400 million, with EUR 8.7 million lost due to expired contracting deadlines; however, compensatory measures can be considered, subject to Kosovo addressing the EU's de-escalation requirements in the north.

Some steps towards de-escalation were taken since the December 2024 Council conclusions leading to the start of the gradual lifting, namely the resumption of SAA Sub-Committees as well as the unlocking of projects in support of the RGF.

Kosovo is aware that the lifting of the measures remains dependant on its effort to de-escalate the situation in the north.

⁽¹⁾ * This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16983-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽²⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/kosovo-report-2024_en.

⁽³⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/belgrade-pristina-dialogue-agreement-path-normalisation-between-kosovo-and-serbia_en.