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Answer given by Ms Kos
on behalf of the European Commission
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In the context of EU accession negotiations, Serbia must meet the interim benchmarks under Chapter 23 on judiciary and fundamental rights. Particularly, on the handling of domestic war crimes cases, Serbia is expected to effectively demonstrate adequate investigations of allegations and equal treatment of suspects to ensure that no one is above the law, regardless of their nationality or ethnicity or that of the victims.

Moreover, Serbia is expected to engage in meaningful regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations in handling war crimes by avoiding conflicts of jurisdictions and ensuring that war crimes are prosecuted without any discrimination. All outstanding issues in this regard must be fully resolved before accession.

The Commission follows closely the domestic handling of war crimes cases in the context of Serbia's EU accession negotiations. In the 2025 Enlargement Package¹, it is reported that individuals in Serbia are able to evade justice by taking advantage of prohibitions against extradition of nationals for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The Commission does not comment on individual cases.

¹ SWD(2025) 755 final.