

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000237/26
to the Commission**

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(21 January 2026)

Subject: Reported use of animal testing for acoustic devices in Serbia

Recent media reports indicate that Serbian authorities permitted the testing of high-decibel acoustic devices on animals. The use of animal testing for equipment designed to cause pain, distress or disorientation raises serious concerns regarding animal welfare and ethical standards.

Serbia is an EU candidate country and is therefore expected to progressively align with EU legislation and principles, including those enshrined in Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which recognises animals as sentient beings and requires full regard to animal welfare in policymaking.

1. Has the Commission requested clarification from the Serbian authorities regarding the reported use of animal testing for high-decibel acoustic devices, and does it consider such practices to be compatible with EU animal welfare standards applicable to candidate countries?
2. How does the Commission ensure that candidate countries refrain from practices involving the use of animals in ways that are incompatible with EU animal welfare standards, including those applicable to scientific or technical testing?
3. Will the Commission address this issue in its ongoing monitoring of Serbia's alignment with EU values and legislation, and, if so, what concrete steps will be taken to ensure that animal welfare considerations are fully integrated into Serbia's accession process?

Submitted: 21.1.2026

Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(16 April 2026)

The Commission is aware of the reports referred to by the Honourable Member.

In the context of Serbia's EU accession negotiations, Serbia is expected to align with the EU *acquis* for animal welfare and comply with the EU animal welfare standards.

As noted in the 2025 Enlargement Package ⁽¹⁾, the alignment with the EU *acquis* on animal welfare is work in progress. For example, Serbia still needs to adopt framework legislation, including on animal welfare, which is a prerequisite for opening Chapter 12 on Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, as well as legislation related to Chapter 27 to ensure full alignment with Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes ⁽²⁾.

In this context, Serbia is preparing to adopt new laws on animal welfare and animal health. Alignment with the EU *acquis* will be necessary for accession negotiations and the achievement of the relevant step ⁽³⁾ in Serbia's Reform Agenda under the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission will continue to closely follow developments in Serbia, including as regards animal welfare.

⁽¹⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/6e68ce26-b95b-48e1-921a-c60c12da8f00_en?filename=serbia-report-2025.pdf.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2010/63/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/510d7159-e485-48cf-b49e-6b52164b74c3_en?filename=7.1.%20ANNEX%20VII%20-%20Reform%20Agenda%20Serbia%20-%20annex%201.pdf.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1449/oj/eng>.