

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001644/26
to the Commission
Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Renew)
(22 April 2026)**

Subject: Deteriorating situation in Serbia: clashes between police and students

The ongoing crackdown on student-led protests in Serbia has been marked by violent clashes between security forces and demonstrators demanding institutional accountability and the rule of law. This raises serious concerns about the state of democracy, fundamental freedoms and human rights in the Western Balkans.

These developments, occurring in a country formally engaged in EU accession negotiations, call into question both the credibility of Serbia's reform commitments and the effectiveness of the EU's conditionality framework.

In this context:

1. Does the Commission intend to issue a formal assessment of the proportionality of the Serbian authorities' response to peaceful student protests, and to what extent will these events be reflected in Serbia's upcoming EU progress report?
2. Is the Commission prepared to consider targeted measures, including the temporary suspension or recalibration of pre-accession funding, if the Serbian authorities continue to suppress civic freedoms and obstruct independent judicial oversight?
3. How does the Commission plan to strengthen its engagement with Serbian civil society and student movements, and what concrete steps will it take to ensure that the EU's democratic conditionality is applied consistently and credibly?

Submitted: 22.4.2026

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(17 June 2026)**

The Commission continuously assesses whether the relevant conditions for support under the EU's financial instruments are met.

This is part of the normal implementation of these instruments and applies throughout the process, including at the stage of each payment request under the Western Balkans Reform and Growth Facility ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission expects Serbia to make progress on key reforms, notably in the area of rule of law, fundamental rights and democratic principles.

The rights of peaceful demonstration, freedom of assembly and freedom of expression must be upheld and cases of violence by the police must be investigated as a matter of priority.

The Commission has expressed concerns about developments in Serbia, including the judicial legislation recently adopted. It expects Serbia to fully implement the Venice Commission's urgent opinion on this legislation and is following closely the next steps.

The 2026 Enlargement Package will provide an overview of the developments in Serbia over the past year and an assessment of progress in this area.

Enlargement is a whole-of-society process, which is why the Commission meets frequently with stakeholders from across Serbian society.

⁽¹⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/regulation-eu-20241449-european-parliament-and-council-14-may-2024-establishing-reform-and-growth_en.