

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002662/26
to the Commission
Stanisław Tyszką (ESN)
(26 June 2026)**

Subject: Copenhagen economic criteria and Ukraine's EU accession

One of the Copenhagen criteria is the existence of a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competitive pressure in the EU. The Commission's assessment in its 2025 report was that Ukraine was merely 'at some level of preparation' in establishing a functioning market economy and between 'an early stage of preparation' and 'having some level of preparation' to cope with competitive pressure on the EU market. At the same time, Ukraine is still operating under wartime conditions, with high deficits, growing debt, a dependency on external financing, currency restrictions and problems with competition, state ownership and the influence of large economic groups.

In light of the above:

1. What measurable criteria must Ukraine meet for the Commission to recognise it as a functioning market economy fit for EU membership?
2. Does the Commission consider it acceptable to proceed with accession while Ukraine's budget remains structurally dependent on external grants, loans and the EU's extraordinary financial instruments?
3. What reforms in the areas of competition, de-oligarchisation, oversight over state enterprises, public procurement and investor protection does the Commission consider a prerequisite for further accession decisions?

Submitted: 26.6.2026

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

For the existence of a functioning market economy, Ukraine should demonstrate continued macroeconomic stability, notably by preserving monetary and exchange-rate stability while gradually easing foreign-exchange restrictions.

Moreover, Ukraine should strengthen domestic revenue mobilisation by implementing the National Revenue Strategy until 2030 and improve the regulatory environment and increase market competition by implementing the action plan on Deregulation and the State Ownership Policy. Finally, Ukraine should continue efforts to reduce labour market informality and modernise the Labour Code.

Despite the challenging situation, Ukraine successfully completed the screening process and advanced on key reforms. The first negotiating cluster on fundamentals and sixth negotiating cluster on external relations have formally been opened. As per the Commission's assessment, the remaining clusters are also ready to be opened.

State-owned enterprises (SOEs), and public procurement reforms include strengthening the independence and capacity of the competition and state aid authority, restoring the full application of state aid control, and establishing a solid enforcement record in antitrust, mergers and state aid.

Reforms include strengthening the corporate governance of SOEs in line with Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development standards, increasing the independence of supervisory boards, corporatising key SOEs, and ensuring the separation of accounts between public service obligations and commercial activities.
