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Answer given by Ms Kos
on behalf of the European Commission
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Enlargement is a geostrategic investment in peace, security, stability and prosperity for the EU¹. Decisions on enlargement are taken unanimously by the Member States' representatives in the Council, who represent their citizens at national and European level. For the EU to enlarge, the European Parliament also needs to give its consent.

In addition, any future Accession Treaty would have to be ratified by all Member States, and by the acceding country, in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements, which in some cases may include a referendum. In that sense, enlargement and any related changes to the EU's functioning are anchored in democratic legitimacy through both representative democracy and national ratification processes.

The Commission is currently preparing pre-enlargement policy reviews as part of the EU's wider work to ensure that the EU is politically, institutionally and financially prepared for a larger membership, while taking into account that the Treaties already offer ways of ensuring the continued efficient functioning of the EU that could prove particularly useful in view of an enlarged EU. The Commission remains fully committed to transparency, public debate and democratic accountability as discussions on enlargement and the EU's preparedness move forward.

¹ European Council conclusions, 19 December 2024; <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/12/19/european-council-conclusions-19-december-2024/>.