

**Question for written answer E-015735/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Karol Karski (ECR)

Subject: EU enlargement to the Western Balkans and Turkey

The enlargement of the European Union to include the Western Balkans and Turkey could be an important step towards improving economic and political stability. However, it is vital that reforms are carried out in the area of fundamental rights and in order to strengthen democratic institutions, including reforms in public administration, economic growth and competitiveness. One shared challenge is the issue of refugees. The Western Balkans and Turkey have been very accepting and supportive of refugees in their territory. The influx of migrants is also an essential reason to cooperate more closely with the countries involved in the enlargement process. Action also needs to be taken to combat organised crime and corruption and to ensure closer cooperation with civil society groups at local level in order to consolidate reforms within society.

With that in mind:

1. What political, economic and social changes does the Commission think that EU enlargement to the Western Balkans and Turkey will bring about?
2. Does the EU enlargement process require the establishment of a new strategy for action?
3. What objectives and challenges lie ahead for the EU, the Western Balkans and Turkey?