

Question for written answer E-015312/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Mario Borghezio (ENF)

Subject: VP/HR - The Balkans as breeding grounds for Islamic terrorism

According to security experts, in recent years, a strong network of radical Islamic groups has formed in the Balkans, especially in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and Kosovo (here, at least 120 jihadists have returned after fighting in the ranks of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq in 2011). The Croatian newspaper 'Jutarnji list' claims that Muslims are far more radicalised in Kosovo and Albania than in Bosnia. A similar situation has also been found in Macedonia, where parts of the large Albanian minority (25% of the population) are collaborating closely with groups in Albania. The most worrying situation has been observed in the Muslim region of Sandzak, divided between Montenegro, Bosnia and Serbia, where internal divisions have apparently particularly promoted the radicalisation of some groups, especially after various Bosnian Wahhabi leaders were transferred to Sandzak. In Croatia, where some 60 000 Muslims live, about 70 people have been described as 'Islamic extremists' by the secret services.

This situation involves all countries which are candidates to join the EU. In the light of the above information, does the Vice-President/High Representative not consider it appropriate to suspend any kind of accession negotiations with these countries?