

**Question for written answer E-012601/2011  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Adrian Severin (NI)**

Subject: EU's position on the progress made in the fight against corruption in Romania

After seven years of investigation and trial, the Romanian Supreme Court of Justice has issued a 'not guilty' verdict in one of the cases brought against Adrian Nastase, a former Romanian Prime Minister.

In relation to this event, the Romanian media claimed that, some time before the Court's decision, the European Commission's officials present in Romania under the Mechanism for Cooperation and Verification were told by Supreme Court judges that Mr Nastase would never be convicted. An article published in the Romanian press stated that, according to the most credible of sources, at the meeting with the European Commission lawyers present in Bucharest in order to evaluate the state of the justice reform in Romania, the Supreme Court judges stated that they would never convict Mr Nastase. The Commission's representatives then allegedly swiftly left Romania – with most of them convinced that the rule of law does not operate properly in that country.

Given these circumstances, in the spirit of the Commission's obligation to ensure transparency and for the sake of progress in the area of the rule of law in Romania, can it:

1. Confirm or reject the allegations made in the Romanian media?
2. If these are confirmed, inform Parliament which Romanian judges it was who stated that Adrian Nastase would not be convicted, irrespective of the circumstances of the case?
3. Confirm that the Court's verdict of 'not guilty' in the case of the former Romanian Prime Minister constitutes, for the EU, a yardstick for defining as insufficient the progress made in the reform of the Romanian judiciary?
4. Provide Parliament, if such is the case, with explanations as to why the position of the EU in the case of the former Ukrainian Prime Minister, Yulia Tymoshenko, is completely the opposite of that in the case of the former Romanian Prime Minister?