

**Question for written answer E-007924/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Adrian Severin (NI)

Subject: Dismissal of Traian Basescu, President of Romania - a parliamentary putsch?

In a statement in the 1 September 2012 edition of *Le Monde*, the European Commissioner for Justice, Viviane Reding, described the dismissal of the President of Romania, Traian Basescu, as a 'parliamentary putsch' and raised question marks over the proper functioning and credibility of the rule of law in Romania.

A putsch is a military coup, and a coup can be defined as 'a takeover of the powers of state by a group of conspirators who replace the legitimate leadership using violence'. This would imply that, in Romania, rather than the correct legal procedures for changing the head of state being applied, violence was used.

In fact, the Romanian Constitutional Court approved both the instigation and the procedure for the dismissal of the President of Romania. In the referendum which followed the decision adopted in the Romanian Parliament, the turnout was 8.5 million, with 7.4 million members of the public voting in favour of dismissal (87.7%).

- Can the Commission state its grounds for describing the events in Romania in the period July to August 2012 as a coup d'état. Who were the conspirators? In what way did they act violently?
- What arguments are there to indicate that the procedure followed was not legal?