

**Question for written answer E-003231/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**David Casa (PPE)**

Subject: Protecting the rule of law

The newly suggested three-step process to further ensure the protection of the rule of law in Europe is meant to serve as a warning to Member States whose actions are seen as risky.

While it is understood that the period of time required to carry out the three steps is expected to vary from case to case, has a specific period of time been set as the maximum time frame allowed for this purpose?