

**Question for written answer P-007585/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**David McAllister (PPE) and Eduard Kukan (PPE)**

Subject: Visibility of EU investments in Serbia

From 2007 until 2014 EU financial assistance to the Western Balkans through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) amounted to EUR 5.1 billion and was allocated through both national and regional programmes. Of this, EUR 1.385 billion was allocated to Serbia. Under the current period 2014-2020, Serbia is estimated to receive 1.508 billion EUR. The EU is by far the biggest donor in the region. However, according to a poll released in December 2015 by the International Republican Institute (IRI), 36 % of the Serbian people believe, mistakenly, that Russia is Serbia's biggest aid donor. Only 21 % know that the EU is the number one donor.

1. What action is the Commission taking to intensify the visibility of investments from the EU budget in Serbia in order to increase awareness of EU funding among the Serbian people?
2. What steps are being taken to consolidate the implementation of the Serbian government's strategy on EU communication, including through the approval of government action plans to ensure the visibility of EU-funded projects?
3. To which sectors have the greater proportion of IPA funds for Serbia been allocated in the current period?