

E-2637/10EN  
Answer given by Mr Füle  
on behalf of the Commission  
(1.6.2010)

The Commission is closely monitoring the judicial reform process in Serbia, which is a key priority of the European Partnership, and the recent developments regarding the re-appointment of judges and prosecutors. In February 2010, the Commission carried out an expert mission, together with experts from the Member States, to assess the implementation of the re-appointment procedure.

The findings of the expert mission confirm that the re-appointment procedure showed important shortcomings regarding the composition and independence of the High Judicial Council and the State Prosecutorial Council, the application of objective criteria and the transparency and reliability of the overall process.

The Vice-President of the Commission for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship and the Member of the Commission responsible for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy have raised these shortcomings in the judicial reform with the Serbian counterparts and pointed out the need to carry out a full review of the procedure. The Commission will fully support such a process and closely monitor the future developments. This monitoring will be reflected in the annual progress reports as well as in a possible Opinion on the merits of Serbia's application for accession to the EU.