

EN
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Answer given by Mr Hahn
on behalf of the European Commission
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President Juncker in his September 2018 State of the Union address declared: *“We must improve our ability to speak with one voice when it comes to our foreign policy. This is why today the Commission is proposing to move to qualified majority voting in specific areas of our external relations. Not in all but in specific areas: human rights issues and civilian missions included.”* The extension of qualified majority voting is thus about ensuring the functioning of the EU in the future as a global actor.

Serbia's accession process to the EU is merit-based and depends on concrete results achieved, with the rule of law, justice and human rights being fundamental elements of this process.

The European Union Common Position¹ for Chapter 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights – includes a number of Interim Benchmarks in the area of domestic handling of war crimes that Serbia needs to meet in order to advance on its European path, including: *“Serbia implements effectively the measures in its National strategy in support of investigation, prosecution and adjudication of war crimes.”*

The EU Common Position reflects the opinion of all EU Member States. The Commission closely follows the issues in line with this position.

¹ AD 20/16, CONF-RS 5/16 of 8 July 2016.