



Dear petitioners,

Thank you for your open letter and your e-mails addressed to the former President of the European Commission, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, in which you raise concerns in relation to a number of investment frauds possibly involving Bulgarian registered companies or organisations and delays in the execution of a European arrest warrant (EAW) against alleged fraudster acting in Bulgaria. In your correspondence, you urge representatives of Member States to raise concerns before the Commission adopts its decision with respect to the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM).

As to the execution of a European Arrest Warrant, I would like to clarify that this is an entirely judicial procedure based on the particular circumstances of each individual case. Therefore, neither the Commission nor the Member States' government authorities can interfere or have any influence in relation to decisions of the Bulgarian judicial authorities in this particular case.

As to the CVM, it was established at the time of Bulgaria's accession to the EU in 2007, as a transitional measure to assist Bulgaria in addressing a number of remaining issues identified in relation to judicial reform and the fight against corruption and organised crime. The mechanism does not address specific cases, as it is for the national authorities to ensure the proper application of the law in concrete cases. In its latest CVM progress report¹ dated 22 October 2019, the Commission concludes that the progress made by Bulgaria is sufficient to meet Bulgaria's commitments at the time of its accession to the EU. Bulgaria will need to continue working consistently on translating the commitments specified in the report into concrete legislation and on continued implementation.

The Commission remains committed to assisting the Member States in the application of EU law and to apply its role as guardian of the Treaties where necessary. As announced in its Communication of 17 July 2019 on *Strengthening of the rule of law in the Union – a blueprint for action*, the Commission intends to deepen its monitoring of rule of law related developments in the Member States, through a rule of law review mechanism.

Your faithfully,

(e-signed)
Salla SAASTAMOINEN

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/progress-report-bulgaria-2019-com-2019-498_en.pdf