

**Question for written answer E-005685/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jean-Luc Mélenchon (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Power of religions in the EU: what about secularism?

In Article 17 of the Treaty of Lisbon (Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union), the EU has made official provision for 'an open, transparent and regular dialogue' with churches and philosophical and non-confessional organisations.

However, no list of the organisations which participate in this dialogue is currently available.

1. Can the Commission specify the criteria on which it bases decisions to allow organisations to participate in the dialogue or, conversely, to exclude them?
2. As a demonstration of the transparency incumbent upon it under the Treaty, can the Commission release a list detailing the EU funding supplied to churches, religious or confessional associations and philosophical and non-confessional organisations?

The aggressive intervention by churches in a number of Parliament debates, in particular to oppose the Estrela report on sexual and reproductive health and rights – for which purpose the Pope received a delegation of MEPs – threatens the definition, on a free and rational basis, of the general interest in the context of drafting EU texts.

3. How does the Commission intend to protect the European institutions against any interference from religious or secular organisations in EU decision-making?