Question for written answer E-005698/2015 to the Commission

Rule 130

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Subject: Compliance of an Italian circular on 'Islamic terrorism' with EU law and fundamental rights

According to a circular issued by the Veneto Regional Council on 8 January 2015, 'given the presence in our schools of many foreign students and of their parents in our community', it has become necessary 'to require [from them] a condemnation of the [Paris attacks]'. The circular adds, furthermore, that 'we need to talk [...,] especially in our schools, to condemn [...] a culture that preaches hate for our culture', and goes on to proclaim that 'all terrorists are Muslims and a lot of violence is being justified in the name of their belonging to a very specific religion and culture'.

In the Commission's view, does this circular comply with Articles 2 and 3 of Directive 2000/43/EC, and with the right to freedom of religion, the principles of non-discrimination enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Articles 10 and 21) and the corresponding articles of the European Convention on Human Rights (Articles 9 and 14)?

In the light of increased Islamophobia in Europe and given the stigmatising effect on Muslims of counter-terrorism policies, is the Commission considering proposing a European Framework for National Strategies aimed at combating Islamophobia so as to effectively tackle this form of racism and to ensure the social inclusion of Muslims?

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