

**Question for written answer E-005939/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Davor Ivo Stier (PPE)**

Subject: Role of religion and faith-based organisations in development

The role of religion and faith-based organisations (FBOs) in development is currently a subject of wide discussion, especially after the terrorist attacks in Paris and Copenhagen, but also in Nigeria, Syria, Iraq and elsewhere. Religious leaders on all levels can be strong advocates for peace, prevention of violence and reconciliation.

Religious values and beliefs could contribute vital perspectives in the planning and implementation of EU projects, particularly as regards combating religious extremism and ensuring peace, reconciliation and development cooperation.

To my knowledge, the EU does not have any guidelines on religion and development issues or guidelines on how to include FBOs in its advisory mechanisms for its staff, especially in EU delegations and in the head office of the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels.

1. Does the Commission plan to draw up such guidelines to be used by the EEAS and its staff on the ground?
2. How much development cooperation funding has been assigned to FBOs in the period 2007-2013?