

Question for written answer E-015314/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Danger of a spiral of hatred following terrorist attacks

The terrorist attacks that occurred in Paris left the French capital plunged in grief and gave rise not only to a wave of sadness and fear, but also to a desire for revenge. This has led to an increase in the number of racially motivated crimes. This can be observed not only in France, but also in the UK, Germany, Sweden and many other countries. People of different nationalities, faiths or skin colours have been victims of various forms of harassment. Currently these are relatively isolated incidents, but historical experiences teach us that there is cause for concern that such phenomena could escalate.

The greatest danger would be a wave of revenge attacks aimed at minorities – and Muslims in particular. This could in turn provoke the representatives of those minorities to take action against indigenous inhabitants, both motivated by self-defence and by revenge for the harm suffered. It is possible that this is precisely what the Islamic terrorists want to see. They do not just want to provoke fear and chaos; they primarily seek to create an anarchic situation in which one group of people in Europe kills another for the sole reason that they are different. Such a spiral of hatred cannot be allowed to develop, as it would soon lead to a destructive religious war – a war of civilisations.

Is the Commission taking any steps, alongside the Member States, to reduce the risk of such a menace?