

**Question for written answer E-002236/2016  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

**Marijana Petir (PPE), Hannu Takkula (ALDE) and Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski (ECR)**

Subject: VP/HR - Denial of visas on religious grounds in India

On 3 March 2016 India denied visas to the delegation of the Commission on International Religious Freedom, a high-level US government agency that monitors international religious freedom. There is growing evidence that India systematically denies visas to foreign missionaries on religious grounds.

1. How is the HR/VP addressing the violations of freedom of thought, conscience and religion perpetrated in India, more specifically anti-conversion laws and denial of visas on religious grounds?
2. Given the recent developments, what additional measures are the HR/VP and the European External Action Service (EEAS) taking in order to prevent denial of visas on religious grounds in India?
3. Will the HR/VP address the issue of the denial of visas on religious grounds in her future meetings with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian Government and, if so, what concrete measures will be proposed?