

**Question for written answer E-005026/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Virginie Rozière (S&D) and Sophia in 't Veld (ALDE)

Subject: Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the European Union

On 6 May 2016, at the Vatican, President Juncker appointed Mr Ján Figel' Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the European Union, for an initial mandate of one year. While welcoming the appointment of a Special Envoy and his determination to defend freedom of religion or belief as an individual right to be exercised by everyone everywhere, based on the principles of equality, non-discrimination and universality in line with the EU Guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief:

- Could the Commission provide more details about the mandate of the Special Envoy and the means he will have at his disposal?
- Could the Commission provide a detailed overview of the Special Envoy's action points, including the promotion and protection of freedom of expression and the rights of non-believers and apostates?
- As the right to freedom of religion or belief is sometimes invoked to justify human rights violations often affecting women and girls, members of religious minorities and LGBTI people, how will the Special Envoy promote and protect the rights of these groups?