

**Question for written answer E-008258/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Strategy to prevent jihadist radicalisation in the Balkans

Kosovo and Bosnia are the European countries with the highest number of jihadists fighting for ISIS and the al-Nusra Front per capita.

According to a report by the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence, they are also the two areas of Europe where the risk of radicalisation is highest. Albanian journalist Arbana Xharra reports that high youth unemployment and extreme poverty in both countries increase the risks of radicalisation, which are particularly high for young people and women.

In Kosovo, over 60 people, including 12 imams, have been arrested and charged with recruiting jihadists; wahhabism is gaining in popularity thanks to the work of extremist NGOs funded by the Persian Gulf monarchies, such as the Saudi High Commission for Relief of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and various attacks have been perpetrated in recent years, such as the Zvornik police station shooting.

In view of this situation, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What strategy will the Commission adopt in Bosnia and Kosovo to tackle jihadist radicalisation, bearing in mind their status as potential candidates for accession to the European Union?
2. How has it followed up on the measures set out in paragraph 21 of the 2015 Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina (B8-0441/2016), and what has been the outcome thereof?