

**Question for written answer E-008704/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)

Subject: Persecution of Christians - report by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)

On 15 November 2016, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) published its report for 2016, which concluded that there had been a general deterioration in the situation and denounced a religious fundamentalism that had become more violent than ever, causing death and destruction, displacing population groups and destabilising countries to an unprecedented extent. While the European Union – especially through its Fundamental Rights Agency and in numerous documents – expresses particular concern about LGBTIQ minorities, Roma people and immigrants, including those who are illegal, on the other hand it displays little inclination to draw the authorities' attention to the situation of Christians in Europe and elsewhere in the world. To take another example, the French police intelligence service (SRCT) notes that aggression or depredations targeted at Christians increased by 40% between January and September 2016. Meanwhile, the rise within Europe of Salafist Islam and of jihadi movements deeply hostile to Christianity is cause for concern in a Europe which has historically been Christian.

What measures will the Commission therefore take to seriously combat discrimination against Christians in Europe and the rest of the world, particularly in such countries as Saudi Arabia?