

**Question for written answer E-009463/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Laima Liucija Andrikienė (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Religious war in Afghanistan

The Islamic State (IS) and former Taliban members who have joined IS have carried out numerous bloody attacks against religious or ethnic minorities in Afghanistan in recent years, in a likely effort to instigate a religious or ethnic war in Afghanistan.

The Constitution recognises all ethnicities in Afghanistan; however, the recent attacks have shaken confidence in the government and its ability to provide security for Afghanistan's people. It is evident that the attacks on minorities (for example, on 11 October 2016 in Kabul, the Shia minority group was targeted and 14 people were killed, and on 13 October 2016 14 Shias were killed and 28 injured in a powerful blast at the gate of the Shia mosque in the centre of the Balkh district in northern Afghanistan) were designed to raise sectarian tension in Afghanistan, and they pose a great risk to the security of citizens and the human rights situation in the country.

What steps is the EU taking to help the official authorities with safeguarding, in order to protect the religious freedoms of unsecular and war-tortured Afghan citizens, especially the religious minority groups?

What kind of measures has EUPOL (European Union Police Mission) Afghanistan taken to directly prevent such attacks and protect society, especially women and children?