

**Question for written answer E-000168/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lorenzo Fontana (ENF)

Subject: Protecting persecuted Christians in the world

According to the World Watch List 2017, recently published by the non-profit organisation Open Doors, in the 50 countries of the world taken into account there are over 215 million persecuted Christians, equal to about 30% of the total. The report notes that persecution has greatly increased and that new countries have now joined this list. One major cause is the violent side of Islamic extremism. Some areas still retain the death penalty for anyone who is discovered to be Christian and in the period in question 1 207 Christians were killed.

In the light of these alarming statistics, can the Commission say:

- whether it is aware of these statistics;
- whether it intends to take any measures to protect Christians in the world, and if so, what measures?