

**Question for written answer E-000840/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Lorenzo Fontana (ENF)

Subject: Foreign funding for Islamic centres in Italy

Over the past few years, Qatar has been investing heavily in Italy's mosque infrastructure. A new controversy has arisen in Italy as a result of the Union of Islamic Communities and Organisations (UCOII) wanting to buy the historic Villa Basilewsky and convert it into a mosque. Costs are believed to be around EUR 30 million. According to media reports, the project is being co-financed by Qatar.

Qatar is viewed as highly controversial by scholars, politicians and experts when it comes to the funding of Islamic centres because many religious organisations in the Emirate are said to have close ties with the Muslim Brotherhood, as does the UCOII. This is giving rise to concerns that radicalisation is taking place through the channel of mosques funded by Qatar.

1. Does the Commission know about this project?
2. Is the Commission aware of any other projects in Italy for Islamic centres funded from Qatar?
3. Does the Commission share the opinion that Islamic centres in Italy funded from Qatar can lead to radicalisation?