

**Question for written answer E-003111/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)**

Subject: Salafist influence in Macedonia

Bektashi Tariqa is considered one of the oldest and largest Alevi Dervish orders in Anatolia and the Balkans, though it is not recognised as a religion in Macedonia.

The faith group runs the 500-year-old Arabati monastery in the city of Tetovo. Since 2002, the monastery has been occupied by armed Salafists and Bektashi have been denied access. According to the European Alevi Unions Confederation, Salafists also occupy other Alevi monasteries in the region, using them as refuges.

1. Has the issue of increasing Salafist Islamisation been critically raised with Macedonia in its accession negotiations with the Commission?
2. Does the Commission see a need to intervene in order to enforce Bektashi title to the Arabati monastery?
3. The Arabati monastery is soon to be restored by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TiKA), which could lead to a consolidation of Sunni influences in the region. What can the Commission do to prevent what is evidently systematic Sunnification by Ankara at the expense of the Alevites in Macedonia?