

**Question for written answer E-004769/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jonathan Arnott (EFDD)

Subject: Hate Crimes in Bulgaria

There have been reports that Bulgarian officials have failed to prosecute hate crimes against various religious minority groups in the country (source: 'Annual report finds shortcomings in religious freedom in Bulgaria', Sofia Globe, 11 August 2016).

Given that Bulgaria has an obligation to protect religious minorities, could the Commission clarify whether it has raised the issue of these shortcomings with the Bulgarian authorities, and, if so, please provide details?