

**Question for written answer E-007364/2017  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Josef Weidenholzer (S&D)**

Subject: Bektashis in Macedonia

The Bektashi Order is an 800 year-old Alevitic order. There have been repeated attacks by Salafists on Bektashi monasteries with the acquiescence of the Macedonian authorities. Since independence, there has been no legal certainty as regards the ownership of Bektashi monasteries. At an event in the European Parliament, representatives of the Order confirmed that such violent attacks were not a thing of the past.

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation?
2. In view of a possible future accession, is the Commission prepared to exert its influence on the Macedonian government with regard to these acts of violence?
3. Does the Commission intend to adopt any measures to ensure that sufficient value is attached to the protection of religious minorities in the Republic of Macedonia and to make certain that the Bektashi are in future recognised as a religious minority in their own right?