

**Question for written answer P-006438/2014
to the Council**
Rule 130
Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: Persecution of religious minorities in northern Iraq

The advance of forces belonging to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is causing the mass exodus from the region of people from minority religious groups such as Yazidis and Christians. Members of these minorities who refuse to convert to the radical version of Islam adhered to by ISIL are being killed and tortured and have their property confiscated.

The defence of human rights forms part of the Community acquis. The universality and indivisibility of human rights and human dignity are among the principles which inspired the creation of the EU, and which it seeks to promote through its external action (Article 21.1 TEU). Furthermore, Article 21.2(b) TEU states that the EU shall define and pursue common policies and actions to consolidate human rights and international law.

1. What mechanisms has the Council activated, both diplomatically and in terms of direct action, to stop the terrible human rights violations currently taking place in northern Iraq?
2. Does the Council intend to draft an exhaustive report on these events and, if necessary, take action to bring the perpetrators to justice in the international courts?