

**Question for written answer P-002539/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Philippe Juvin (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians by Islamic State in Libya

On Sunday, 15 February, Islamic State (IS) released a video showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians who had been abducted last month in Libya. Apart from the barbaric nature of this video, it confirms that IS has become established in Libya. A few hours after its release, the Egyptian government retaliated by bombing IS positions in Libya.

The Vice-President/High Representative stated on Monday, 16 February, that she would be meeting the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Sameh Shoukry, this week, together with several other political leaders, including US Secretary of State John Kerry, in order to present her condolences and discuss future challenges facing the region.

In view of the above, will the Vice-President/High Representative state:

1. Does she take the view that the establishment of IS in Libya requires a revision of the strategic priorities set on 3 December 2014 at the first ministerial meeting of the international coalition against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant?
2. Does she consider that the overall strategy presented by the Commission on 6 February to fight against the threat posed by IS should be revised to include Libya?
3. Does she intend to propose a revision of this strategy to ensure that religious minorities are protected from IS?