Priority question for written answer P-004037/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Discrimination against organisations on the basis of their ethnic/cultural background

The Commission is the guardian of the Treaties and of compliance with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. One of the main priorities of the new Commission is the ‘Union of equality’.

In Flanders, the government is amending the rules on subsidies to organisations in the field of socio-cultural work with adults. The relevant decree (153 (2019-2020)) stipulates that organisations that ‘focus on ethnic/cultural origin’ can no longer receive subsidies. The General Explanatory Notes stress ‘that only organisations which do not purely focus on ethnic/cultural origin will be subsidised. This aspect will be prioritised in assessments.’

Is the Commission aware of this?

Does the amendment contained in this decree fall under the European definition of 'discrimination' on grounds of ethnic or social background?

Does the Commission regard this as a breach of the Union's fundamental values, particularly equality, non-discrimination (including on the basis of ethnic or social origin) and pluralism and the rights of minorities, as set out, inter alia, in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and is the Commission willing to launch an investigation into this?