

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1704/07  
by Albert Jan Maat (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Christians in Turkey

The Commission supports Turkey through the Accession Partnership. In January 2006 this instrument was partly revised and improved. The goal of the Partnership is to assist the Turkish authorities in meeting the criteria for accession. Among other things, it provides financial support. The Commission also sees to it that the aid given to Turkey is used in part to benefit ethnic and religious minorities. However, situations occurred last year that point to repression of minorities.

1. How high is the proportion of accession aid used to provide assistance for religious and ethnic minorities, including Christians?
2. How does the Commission see to it that the money is spent in a balanced way, including for the benefit of minorities in Turkey?