

**Question for written answer E-000044/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Konrad Szymański (ECR)

Subject: Persecution of Christians in Egypt

In connection with the attack in front of a Coptic church in Alexandria, Egypt, on 1 January 2011, in which 21 people were killed, could the Commission please answer the following questions:

1. What measures is the Commission taking to combat the growing violence against Christians in the region, and in particular in Egypt?
2. What impact will this latest attack, and similar incidents, have on Egypt's Country Progress Report in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy?
3. Will the issue of the rights of religious minorities in Egypt be reflected in the priorities of the Egypt/EU Joint Action Plan, in political terms and in terms of assistance funding?
4. What instruments will the Commission use to help prevent such tragedies in future?
5. Will the Commission give greater consideration to freedom of religion, and in particular the rights of Christians, as a basic human right, in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy?