

**Question for written answer E-000994/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Publication of the official EU diary for young people: violation of the principle of freedom of thought, opinion and religion

The Commission recently produced over three million copies of the European Diary, with 51 pages of information on the European Union. That diary has already been distributed to over 21 000 schools, free of charge to students, by the Commission. Around 5 million euros were spent on the diaries.

The dates of the main religious festivals are shown in the diary, including Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish and Chinese holy days and other, secular, public holidays, such as Europe Day and other important European holidays, but no Christian feast days – not even Christmas Day – are mentioned, despite the fact that the most Europeans are Christians. Precisely because there have been continual acts of persecution, ghettoisation and attacks on Christians throughout the world, the responsibility lies with the European Union to focus greater attention on respect for the freedom of religion of its citizens and recognition of their feast days, with this being the basic principle of any democratic system.

Furthermore, on 12 January 2011, the Commission press service announced that it had no intention to recall the copies of the diary that had already been distributed.

Can the Commission therefore state:

1. Why it does not intend to recall the copies of the diary already distributed?
2. Whether it does not consider the contents of that diary to conflict with Article 10 (freedom of religion) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and Articles 21 and 22 of that Charter, which concern the principle of non discrimination on the grounds of religion and respect by the Union for the religious and cultural diversity of European citizens?

3. What objective criteria were taken into consideration when drawing up the diary?
4. Whether it will check the contents of such diaries in future, and assume responsibility for ensuring that these reflect the values and fundamental rights of the European Union?