

**Question for written answer E-001473/2011
to the Council
Rule 117
László Surján (PPE)**

Subject: Persecution of Christians

There is a growing intolerance towards Christians in the Middle East and some other Islamic countries of Asia. We are experiencing more and more tensions in some of the Islamic countries towards religious minorities, and this has consequences in Europe as well. There is growing anxiety about Muslim immigrant communities in the EU, and the era of multiculturalism is not seen in the most positive light any more. The sensitivity of the question requires action from the Union. I recall the commitment expressed by the Hungarian PM, Viktor Orbán, regarding the Hungarian Presidency's dedication to pursuing action with regard to the growing intolerance and persecution against Christians in the world.

I would like to put the following questions to the Council of the European Union.

What kind of steps are planned to be taken in reaction to the persecution of Christians beyond the borders of the EU?

What kind of action is being taken and planned to promote tolerance within Islamic countries towards Christian citizens and Christian people?

Is there a plan to engage Muslim communities in the EU in expressing their solidarity towards Christians in Islamic countries?