

**Question for written answer E-011547/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Jacek Włosowicz (EFD), Tadeusz Cymański (EFD), Jacek Olgierd Kurski (EFD) and Zbigniew Ziobro (EFD)

Subject: Changes to the proposed design of the Slovak EUR 2 coin

A scandal erupted in the second half of November 2012 when the Commission recommended that Slovakia make changes to the design of its proposed EUR 2 coin. The coin was to be issued by the National Bank of Slovakia (NBS) in 2013. The reverse of the coin was supposed to depict Saints Cyril and Methodius, in commemoration of the 1150th anniversary of their arrival in Moravia. The Commission recommended that depictions of a crucifix and of the Saints' halos be removed from the coin. A spokeswoman for the NBS revealed to the Slovak newspaper 'Pravda' that the Commission, acceding to requests from certain Member States, had recommended that the aforementioned images be removed from the coin's original design. Given that the coin would be in circulation in all eurozone states, its design should respect the principle of 'religious neutrality'.

In response to strong opposition from Slovak society, clergy and politicians, the board of the NBS ultimately decided to reject the Commission's recommendations and forwarded the original design, featuring the crucifix and the Saints' halos, to Brussels.

1. Is the Commission's aforementioned attempt at interference a violation of Article 22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which states that the Union must respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity?
2. On the basis of which Member States' requests did the Commission recommend making changes to the design of the Slovak EUR 2 coin?