Question for written answer E-006367/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Auke Zijlstra (ENF)

Subject: EU anti-radicalisation programme

The Dutch Senate has debated the Commission’s eighth progress report on the implementation of the European Agenda on Security. The report states, inter alia, that imams in Bosnia and Herzegovina are being taught to teach young people – particularly those in danger of radicalisation – and their parents (European) social skills and critical thinking.

I am surprised by the role assigned to imams in this programme. In Amsterdam, it has emerged that imams are the very people who have inspired dozens of young people to go to Syria to engage in jihad.

1. Assuming that the Commission has carried out an impact assessment on this programme, on what basis does it believe that imams, who are responsible for disseminating sharia (which has a great deal to do with codes of social conduct), are the most appropriate people to teach young people (particularly those in danger of radicalisation) European codes of social conduct and critical thinking?

2. The European Court of Auditors reported on 29 May 2018 that EU support for Member States to combat radicalisation was inadequate. Can the Commission indicate how effective it has been to use imams to de-radicalise young people?

3. If no impact has been measured, how can the Commission continue to spend money on this controversial anti-radicalisation measure without proper evaluation?

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