

**Question for written answer E-002940/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Roman Haider (ID) and Georg Mayer (ID)**

Subject: Persecution of Christians

Persecution of Christians, systematic oppression by society or the state, or existential threats to Christians due to their religious affiliation remains very much a current problem. More than two million Christians are affected worldwide and there is an upward trend. Religious freedom is a human right that has been internationally recognised for decades, but is being violated in some 50 countries. These include Turkey, China, North Korea, Iraq and Iran.

According to the Watch List of the organisation Open Doors, 200 million Christians worldwide are currently in danger of persecution. Despite these shocking facts, in Europe the attitude seems to be that this appalling situation does not even exist.<sup>1</sup>

1. What view does the Commission take of the above facts?
2. Are there any Europe-wide studies or expert committees dealing with the situation?
3. Does the Commission intend to draw attention to this issue by means of projects or other measures in Europe?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.christenverfolgung.org/verfolgt-und-vergessen.html>, accessed on 14.9.2019; [https://www.opendoors.de/sites/default/files/Open\\_Doors\\_WVI\\_Bericht\\_2019\\_signiert.pdf](https://www.opendoors.de/sites/default/files/Open_Doors_WVI_Bericht_2019_signiert.pdf), accessed on 17.9.2019; <https://www.opendoors.de/christenverfolgung/weltverfolgungsindex#material>, accessed on 17.9.2019; <https://www.opendoors.de/christenverfolgung/weltverfolgungsindex/aktuelle-trends-und-entwicklungen-2019>, accessed on 17.9.2019; <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christenverfolgung#Gegenwart>, accessed on 18.9.2019; <https://de.qantara.de/content/christenverfolgung-bericht-nennt-alarmierende-fakten>, accessed on 18.9.2019; <https://www.die-tagespost.de/politik/Christenverfolgung-Gedenken-an-ein-aktuelles-UEbel;art4880,200730>, accessed on 18.9.2019; <https://www.missio.at/christenverfolgung/>, accessed on 18.9.2019.