

**Question for written answer E-000831/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Tomislav Sokol (PPE)**

Subject: Persecution of Christians – respect for human rights

Recent unfortunate events in Nigeria have drawn attention to the frequent persecution and murder of Christians. According to recent reports, Nigeria now ranks as the country with the greatest number of recorded killings of Christians.

Christians in Nigeria face violence from Islamic extremist groups such as the Fulani and Boko Haram, whose methods often include murder, abduction, bodily injury, and the seizure of livelihoods and property. In 2019 alone, there were 1 350 murders of Christians, while more than 6 000 Christians have been killed since 2015 and about 12 000 expelled from their villages.

Globally, in 2019 more than 245 million Christians were victims of serious persecution – 40 million more than in 2018. This means that one in nine Christians across the world are experiencing high levels of persecution, while in 2018 this value was one in twelve.

1. In line with its foreign and security policy, how does the Commission intend to prevent the further spreading of hatred against Christianity?
2. What methods can the Commission recommend to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Christians located in third countries?