

**Question for written answer E-004478/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Christine Anderson (ID)

Subject: Cultural appropriation

The recent protests that started with the tragic death of George Floyd have triggered a renewed debate and interest in identity politics. One hot topic in identity politics is that of cultural appropriation, a vaguely defined term for when an individual 'steals' from another culture or combines something from a minority culture with something from the majority culture, creating a mash-up that may be more palatable to the majority population. Examples include ethnic Europeans wearing cornrows, dressing up as Native Americans for Halloween, or eating dishes inspired by foreign cuisine that have been modified (such as tacos made with unusual, non-Mexican toppings). Throughout history, these types of 'appropriations' have taken place between different cultures and have never been considered harmful.

In the light of this I would like to ask:

1. Does the Commission agree that what is commonly called cultural appropriation is really a harmless, peaceful exchange of cultural expressions?
2. If not, what measures does the Commission intend to take to tackle cultural appropriation?
3. Does the Commission agree that appropriation of culture is equally acceptable (or unacceptable) whether it is practised by a member of the majority culture/ethnicity or a member of a minority culture/ethnicity?