

**Question for written answer E-002024/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)

Subject: Threats against a singer after he declared that he was conscious of being Bulgarian

Vasil Garvanliev is a singer from the Republic of North Macedonia who is to represent his country at the Eurovision Song Contest. In a video clip of the song he performs one can see an image that resembles the Bulgarian flag, and he has subsequently stated that he is proud to be Macedonian but does not deny his Bulgarian roots. As a result of what he said, he has been attacked in the North Macedonian media and has received over 400 threats.

This is very telling because the Republic of North Macedonia has been represented by people of different ethnic origins without this having sparked a conflict or threats. Legal action should be taken against the intolerance engendered by the dissemination of lies and the falsification of history concerning Bulgaria, and the government in Skopje must take decisive measures.

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

Will the Commission give consideration to cases where people conscious of being Bulgarian are subject to threats and repression, and will it raise this issue with the government in Skopje?