

**Question for written answer E-004030/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Izabela-Helena Kloc (ECR), Elżbieta Kruk (ECR)**

Subject: Promoting state secularity

On 30 August 2021, at a meeting with participants of the ‘Poland Future Campus’, Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans publicly declared that ‘Poland was secular, tolerant and open, and you must fight for this’. The Vice-President correctly identified tolerance and openness as distinctive features of the Polish people throughout history. Nevertheless, with the exception of the Stalinist era, the secularism actively promoted by the Vice-President has never been a characteristic feature of the Polish nation. Article 25(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland states that ‘Public authorities in the Republic of Poland shall be impartial in matters of personal conviction, whether religious or philosophical, or in relation to outlooks on life, and shall ensure their freedom of expression within public life’. The principle of ideological neutrality of the state as expressed in this way does not mean that Poland is a secular state, i.e. one where it is forbidden to use any religious symbol in a public space. Accepting such an interpretation of national secularity would be contrary to the centuries-old tradition and legal culture of the Polish nation. In addition, the fact that the Vice-President visited Poland to take part once again in a strictly political and clearly anti-government event should be noted.

In this context I would like to ask the following questions:

1. Does the Commission intend to implement the secularisation programme in the Member States as announced by Vice-President Timmermans?
2. Does the principle of the apoliticality of Commission officials still apply?