

**Question for written answer E-001547/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)**

**Subject:** Hate speech targeting Bulgarians at the opening of a Bulgarian cultural centre in the town of Bitola

On 16 April 2022, a cultural centre for Bulgarians in the Republic of North Macedonia was opened. The event was attended by officials from Bulgaria, including Prime Minister Kiril Petkov and Vice-President Iliana Iotova. They were confronted by an organised group of people holding anti-Bulgarian banners.

This display of intolerance to anything related to Bulgaria reflects the lack of action by the authorities in Skopje, who refuse to do anything at all about hate speech. While everyone's attention is focused on the start of EU accession negotiations and pressure is being exerted on Bulgaria, there is no such thing as protection of the human rights of Bulgarians in North Macedonia. I would remind you that this is one of the Copenhagen criteria.

In view of this:

Will cases of hate speech and actions against the Bulgarian community in North Macedonia be included in the forthcoming Commission report?