

**Question for written answer E-002046/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Dolors Montserrat (PPE), Isabel Benjumea Benjumea (PPE), Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE),  
Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez (PPE)**

**Subject:** Commission's response to the massacre of Catholics in Nigeria

Yesterday, a massacre of Catholics was perpetrated in a church in Nigeria during the Pentecost mass. According to the media, at least 50 people died, many of whom children<sup>1</sup>.

In accordance with Article 21 TEU, the Union promotes and defends the respect for human rights, such as religious life and freedom, as guiding principles of its foreign policy.

In its resolution of 3 May, Parliament calls on the Commission to ensure adequate funding for the protection of religious minorities in the framework of the thematic programme on human rights of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument<sup>2</sup>.

How many millions of euros from this instrument have been earmarked for the protection of Christians and the fight against Christophobia in the world, particularly in Nigeria?

The post of EU Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the EU has been vacant for more than a year now.

When does the Commission intend to appoint a special envoy? What financial means will such a figure have at his or her disposal to fulfil their institutional mandate?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/gunmen-kill-worshippers-during-church-service-nigeria-media-2022-06-05/>

<sup>2</sup> Parliament Resolution (2021/2055(INI)) on the persecution of minorities on the grounds of belief or religion of 3 May 2022.