

**Question for written answer E-002167/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dominique Bilde (ID)

Subject: Arrest of an Italian-Kosovo citizen in connection with the investigation into the Islamist attack in Vienna, Austria

On 17 November 2021, the Italian police arrested a 19-year-old Italian-Kosovar woman suspected of belonging to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group and of having links with the perpetrator of the November 2020 attack in Vienna¹, a North Macedonian-Albanian man²³.

The Western Balkans has Europe's highest concentration of jihadists returning from Syria or Iraq⁴⁵.

Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia are reportedly 'the only European countries to have publicly and voluntarily repatriated adult male citizens affiliated to the Islamic State who had been detained by Kurdish-led forces'⁶⁷.

In the context of the accession negotiations, and stabilisation and association agreements, and of the visa liberalisation arrangements, how does the Commission intend to shield Member States from the risks connected with radical Islam and Islamist terrorism?

¹ <https://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/attentat-de-vienne-une-djihadiste-presumee-arretee-en-italie-20211117>

² 'Fejzulai was born in Austria to ethnic Albanian parents from North Macedonia.'

³ 'Kujtim Fejzulai is an Austrian-North Macedonian dual national.'

<https://www.counterextremism.com/extremists/kujtim-fejzulai>

⁴ <https://www.lastampa.it/esteri/2020/11/03/news/i-balceni-occidentali-sono-diventati-la-mecca-europea-dei-jihadisti-1.39495872/>

⁵ '*I Balcani Occidentali [...] sono 'la regione d'Europa con la più alta concentrazione di foreign fighters ritornati' dalla Siria e dall'Iraq.*'

⁶ 'As of July 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and North Macedonia [...] are the only European countries to have publicly and voluntarily repatriated adult male citizens affiliated to the Islamic State who had been detained by Kurdish-led forces.'

⁷ <https://www.janes.com/defence-news/prison-terms-for-repatriated-islamic-state-militants-suggest-lenient-treatment-by-west-balkan-courts/>