

**Question for written answer E-002761/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)

Subject: Request to search the 'Ivan Mihaylov' Bulgarian Cultural Club in Bitola

The North Macedonian Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination has sent a formal letter to the President of the 'Ivan Mihaylov' Bulgarian Cultural Club in Bitola informing him that a search would be conducted on the premises.

This was the same club set alight by Lambe Alabakovski, who is free and actively involved in anti-Bulgarian and anti-European protests in Skopje, at which the EU flag has also been burned.

The letter sent to Lyubcho Georgievski stated that the premises of the Cultural Centre would be inspected at midday on 4 August 2022, warning that access to them should be guaranteed.

The conduct of the North Macedonian authorities is at odds with all promises, treaties and documents on good neighbourliness and friendship. It is unacceptable that while a criminal walks around free and continues to sow hatred against Bulgarians, the Commission on Discrimination should be searching the Bulgarian Cultural Club in Bitola.

Can the Commission therefore state:

1. what action it will take to stop the harassment of Bulgarians in North Macedonia;
2. whether it considers the conduct of the authorities in Skopje to be in line with European standards, and especially the Copenhagen criteria, under which the protection of human rights is a basic criterion?