

**Question for written answer E-002964/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Manolis Kefalogiannis (PPE)**

**Subject:** Albania's census: Members of the Greek ethnic minority complain about violations

Albania, an EU accession country, is currently conducting a population census. The EU has provided EUR 4.8 million in funds to assist Albania in carrying out the census. In answer to a question I put to the Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement regarding the previous census conducted in 2011 which was severely criticised by the Council of Europe because of serious irregularities and violations, he said that the Commission expects Albania to conduct the census in line with the applicable international standards. The census should be conducted in full respect of the fundamental rights of the Greek ethnic minority, such as religious freedom and self-determination.

However, serious complaints have been made about violations against the Greek minority during the population census. Vangelis Ntoules, a Member of the Albanian Parliament, denounced among other things the fact that those conducting the census are not asking the census population about their ethnic identity, their mother tongue or their religion.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of these complaints?
2. What steps does it intend to take given its pledge that the Albanian census must be conducted in full respect of fundamental rights?

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