

**Question for written answer E-003132/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Ukraine bans the Ukrainian Orthodox Church

In recent years, the Ukrainian Government has consistently applied ever more pressure on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which has enjoyed a central role in the spiritual life of Ukrainian society for centuries. Now, the Parliament of Ukraine is considering an outright ban on that church, pushing preachers and clergy to merge with other confessions¹.

1. Will the Commission urge the Ukrainian Government to withdraw this ban?
2. Does the Commission consider this to be an obstacle to further negotiations on EU membership, since Ukraine does not guarantee freedom of religion and ensure equal treatment of all confessions, thus clearly going against the values on which the European Union is founded?

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¹ www.barrons.com/amp/news/ukraine-moves-to-ban-moscow-linked-orthodox-church-d1dd82d8.