

**Question for written answer E-003193/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Christmas is an inclusive celebration

Under Action 9e of the Plan for Ethnic and Racial Equality 2023-2026, the European University Institute (EUI) has pledged to include all represented religious and cultural observances in its calendar of events and related activities and to give due consideration to ensuring that inclusive language is used to communicate the celebration of festivals and occurrences in a way that acknowledges all religions and beliefs.

Following the publication of the plan, the EUI also proposed removing all mention of the word 'Christmas' in an internal notice, an initiative that has since been confirmed by President Renaud Dehousse.

It should be borne in mind that there is no mention of banning terms related to Christmas in the inclusion objectives and that this practice is, in fact, a form of discrimination. Moreover, the term 'Christmas' is part of Europe's heritage and identity, and harks back to our Christian roots. It is not a threat to other cultural groups, as it is itself predicated on inclusion.

In 2021, Commissioner Dalli issued internal communication guidelines which banned the use of the term 'Christmas'. The Commissioner later retracted the document.

In view of the above:

1. What are the Commission's views on the proposal?
2. Does it not agree that it should intervene formally by approaching President Dehousse?

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