

**Question for written answer E-001087/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Gianna Gancia (ID)

Subject: Situation of the Coptic community in Europe

Freedom of religion and the principle of non-discrimination are fundamental values of the European Union, enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

The Copts face significant challenges regarding access to suitable facilities for practising their religion, with limited availability of churches exclusively for their community.

The priests of the Coptic Church, who can marry and have families, do not benefit from state subsidies, unlike other religious groups, which puts such families in economically precarious situations.

In the light of the above:

1. What actions can the Commission take to support Member States in ensuring that the Coptic community has fair access to suitable places of worship, thus respecting the principle of religious freedom?
2. What initiatives at EU level can encourage Member States to treat all religious communities equally and in a non-discriminatory manner, including providing adequate state subsidies for priests of all faiths, in line with the principles of equality and non-discrimination?
3. How can the Commission work with national authorities to acknowledge and respond to the economic and organisational challenges facing the Coptic community in Europe, thus promoting integration and respect for the rights of religious minorities?

Submitted: 11.4.2024