

**Question for written answer E-002286/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Islamist terrorism and persecution of religious minorities in Bangladesh

The overthrow of the government of Bangladesh, recently democratically elected on 7 January 2024, through demonstrations and ultimately by military intervention, moves the country further away from the democratic standards that are a necessary precondition for multi-level EU support to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's recently ousted prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, has condemned the role of Islamist terrorist elements in the government's overthrow.

Meanwhile, it is important to take account of:

- the murders of dozens of civil servants and police officers;
- the targeted terrorist attacks on members of religious minorities, such as Hindus, Christians and Buddhists, and on their places of worship, with the clear aim of driving them out of Bangladesh;
- the blatant support by the Qatari media network Al Jazeera (which is sympathetic to the Muslim Brotherhood) given to the forces that overthrew the government;
- the public declaration by İbrahim Karagül, adviser to the Turkish President, about the deployment of Turkish ground-to-air missiles along the border between India and Bangladesh and of Turkish unmanned drones in southern Bangladesh.

In view of this:

1. In addition to the awaited proposal on the suspension of GSP+ preferential trading status for Bangladesh until the elected government is reinstated, what other steps will the Commission take to ensure that democracy is restored as quickly as possible in Bangladesh?
2. Does it plan to intervene in order to reduce the militarisation of the country?

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