

Question for written answer E-000477/2026

to the Commission

Rule 144

Tomislav Sokol (PPE), Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR)

Subject: The targeting of Christians in Türkiye: alleged discriminatory expulsions of Protestants and lack of effective judicial remedies

Robert Andrew Hoard, a United States national, resided legally in Türkiye for nearly 30 years before being expelled under the administrative ‘national security’ code N-82, and without criminal charges, disclosure of evidence or access to effective judicial remedies. His situation appears representative of a broader pattern affecting only members of the foreign Protestant community. According to the Association of Protestant Churches in Turkey, between 2019 and 2024 at least 132 foreign Christians were expelled from Türkiye, affecting more than 300 individuals, including family members. This is particularly concerning given that Türkiye is both a candidate country for accession to the EU and a member of the Council of Europe.

1. How does the Commission assess the compatibility of these practices with Türkiye’s obligations regarding freedom of religion, non-discrimination and the rule of law?
2. Does the Commission consider that treating these cases solely as immigration matters, without a clear legal basis or without evidentiary standards, and relying on secret intelligence reports to justify the expulsions, risks obscuring their religious and discriminatory nature?
3. Has the Commission raised cases of expelled foreign Christians, including that of Robert Andrew Hoard, with the Turkish authorities in the framework of EU-Türkiye dialogue?

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