Question for written answer E-002353/2026
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 144
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Subject: Religious freedom training for EU diplomats

Religious freedom is a fundamental human right, enshrined in most constitutions, as well as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Many conflicts across the globe have a religious component and Christians are especially heavily persecuted. Open Doors estimates that 388 million Christians worldwide are persecuted because of their faith. It is therefore paramount that the EU is fully equipped to engage in dialogue with stakeholders outside of the EU on the freedom of religion or belief. The European Parliament called on the European External Action Service (EEAS) to train EU diplomats in this respect in its discharge resolutions of 2023 and 2024. Various tools to address this are available and have been used in the past for training, such as the Freedom of Religion or Belief (FORB) learning platform.

1. How does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) plan to implement Parliament's call for training?

2. How does the VP/HR ensure that all EEAS staff are equipped to engage in dialogue on religious freedom and how are tools such as the FORB learning platform used?

3. What staff and budget resources are allocated to prioritise this issue?

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