

**Question for written answer E-003773/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Željana Zovko (PPE)

Subject: Use of a fatwa in a court case in Bosnia and Herzegovina

A fatwa issued by the Mufti of Mostar, Salem ef. Dedović, has been used as an argument in a court case before the Municipal Court in Mostar concerning the construction of the Croatian National Theatre building. This religious edict presents claims about the legal status of the site and the legality of the construction.

Public and media reports about the case have employed photomontages and AI-generated images in which the theatre building is surrounded by human bones, skulls and bags containing supposed mortal remains, teamed with graphical representations of blood.

In view of Bosnia and Herzegovina's status as a candidate country:

1. Is the Commission aware of this case?
2. Does it consider the use of religious edicts in court cases to be compatible with the EU's fundamental values, in particular the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary and the secular nature of the institutions?
3. How does it intend to respond to the case and to public reports, including the use of factually unfounded and disturbing visual content liable to fuel interethnic and interfaith tensions in an election year, and will it consider this case in its reporting on Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress?

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