

**Question for written answer E-004210/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Private faith-based arbitration, the rule of law and upholding fundamental rights in the European Union

The establishment in Padua of the ‘Islamic Court of Arbitration’, a private organisation that uses procedures rooted in the principles of Islamic law to settle disputes, gives rise to questions concerning the relationship between religious freedom, private arbitration and upholding the rule of law.

Though freedom of association and religion must be protected, they must not result in the legitimisation of parallel justice systems that could, potentially by means of family and peer pressure, jeopardise individual freedom, respect for women and the rights of minors.

In addition, the European Parliament resolution of 8 October 2026 on the need for a European strategy to counter Islamist infiltration and the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood drew attention to the fact that these movements could threaten the fundamental values of the Union.

We therefore ask the Commission:

1. What steps will it take to prevent private faith-based arbitration from giving rise to parallel legal systems that are incompatible with the rule of law?
2. As much as they concern consenting parties, can these Islamic arbitration procedures be deemed to be compatible with human rights law, seeing as they are predicated on a legal system that does not put men and women on an equal footing?
3. Will it draw up common guidelines for the Member States which do not encroach on national competences and prevent religious freedom from being used to justify practices that undermine fundamental rights?

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