

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001448/24
to the Commission**

Paolo Inselvini (ECR), Carlo Fidanza (ECR), Nicola Procaccini (ECR), Stefano Cavedagna (ECR), Elena Donazzan (ECR), Alberico Gambino (ECR), Giuseppe Milazzo (ECR), Denis Nesci (ECR), Ruggero Razza (ECR), Michele Picaro (ECR), Francesco Torselli (ECR), Alessandro Ciriani (ECR), Lara Magoni (ECR), Chiara Gemma (ECR), Mariateresa Vivaldini (ECR), Mario Mantovani (ECR)
(29 July 2024)

Subject: Blasphemy at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris

During the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics, a blasphemous re-enactment by drag queens of the Last Supper was broadcast live around the world. This constitutes an affront to the dignity and freedom of religion of over 2 billion Christians worldwide and the roughly 328 million EU citizens of the same faith. Broadcasting such content at an event of global importance like the Olympic Games is not only deeply offensive to religious sensitivities, but also undermines the principles of respect and tolerance that should underpin international events.

Permitting performances such as this is highly injurious to freedom of religion, which is a fundamental right enshrined in Article 22 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, which states that ‘the Union shall respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity’. Freedom of expression and the freedom to express one's thoughts should never be such as to cause offence to other people's beliefs and faith. It is vital that the EU institutions take a clear-cut and resolute stance against this kind of offensive behaviour, so as to ensure that future events are respectful of all the faiths and cultures represented.

In view of the above:

1. What can the Commission do to ensure respect for freedom of religion for the remainder of the Olympic Games?
2. What steps can the Commission take to prevent anything like this from happening again?

Submitted: 29.7.2024

**Question for written answer E-001473/24
to the Commission**
Geadis Gead (ECR)
(4 August 2024)

Subject: 2024 Olympics opening ceremony was insulting, blasphemy is not a mark of progress

The opening ceremony of the Paris Olympic Games was unacceptable, as it insulted the faith of thousands of Christians.

Given the long-standing interest in and the respect for the religious identity of all peoples, which is enshrined in the EU's principles and values, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it comment on the performances in question, which offended Christianity, the Holy Gospel and, in general, every civilised person who recognises the right to faith and of respect for religious symbols?
2. What actions will it take regarding this unacceptable ceremony that cast a shadow over the Olympics, insulting thousands of Christians?

We must underline that blaspheming and mocking God does not constitute progress and insulting religious beliefs does not constitute a right.

Submitted: 5.8.2024

**Question for written answer E-001479/24
to the Commission**
Margarita de la Pisa Carrión (Pfe)
(5 August 2024)

Subject: Attack on religious feelings at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris

Countless people all around the world felt profoundly offended by the Olympics opening ceremony, in particular, by the gross mockery made of the Christian Last Supper. Representatives of other religious beliefs, such as Dr Eli David, have shown solidarity in the face of this insult.

Union law (Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, Articles 1 and 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and related legislation and case-law) guarantees human dignity and freedom of religion, including protection against attacks on religious feelings, as a limitation on freedom of expression. The European Commission ensures the application of the Treaties, monitors the application of Union law and represents the EU externally.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider that there has been a lack of public respect for the fundamental right to religious freedom and dignity of Christians?
2. Does it intend to ask France to explain why it tolerates the public mockery of religious beliefs on its territory?
3. Does it intend to ask the International Olympic Committee to explain the public humiliation of Christians?

Submitted: 5.8.2024

Joint answer given by Mr Reynders on behalf of the European Commission
(22 October 2024)

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion as well as freedom of expression and information are essential foundations of EU's democratic societies, enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (the Charter) and the European Convention on Human Rights. Within the remit of its competences, the Commission is committed to ensure the protection and promotion of these rights.

Under Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Commission carries out a regular dialogue with churches, religious organisations and non-confessional associations.

The dialogue takes place in particular through yearly high-level meetings with religious and non-confessional leaders chaired by the Member of the Commission in charge of the dialogue.

However, according to Article 51 of the Charter, the provisions of the Charter are addressed to the Member States only when they are implementing EU law.

Based on the information provided by the Honourable Members, it does not appear that, in the matter referred to, the Member State concerned acted in the course of implementation of EU law.

As a result, the Commission is not in a position to comment further on the issues raised by the Honourable Members.
