

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002834/24
to the Commission
Fredis Beleris (PPE)
(9 December 2024)**

Subject: Need to recognise the genocide of Christians in the East (Greeks, Armenians and Assyrians)

Persecutions and massacres of minorities have been the most abhorrent crimes in world history to date. The Convention on the Prevention and Suppression of the Crime of Genocide ratified in 1948 clearly establishes that any act intended to destroy a population group constitutes genocide.

Many states have recognised the genocides of Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians as separate events. In reality, however, there was just one genocide — that of the Christian populations of the East (Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians) that was carried out in different stages. The genocide in question was the outcome of central planning by the Young Turks and served a single purpose: the ousting by whatever means possible of the Christian populations of the East.

Europe, as a beacon of peace and stability, must not only act as a guardian of values against acts of hatred and violence but also contribute to the shared memory so that such crimes are prevented.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to officially recognise the genocide of the Christian populations of the East?
2. What actions can it take to ensure that Türkiye (as an accession country which ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Suppression of the Crime of Genocide on 31 July 1950) complies with its international obligations and principles of good-neighbourly relations by recognising the genocide of the Christians of the East (Greeks, Armenians and Assyrians)?

Submitted: 9.12.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(22 April 2025)**

Remembrance policies are under the competence of Member States.

Reconciliation is a core foundation of the European project. Good neighbourly relations and reconciliation are also essential elements of the EU's enlargement policy.

It is fundamental that partner countries are able to face their past through open and serene debates. In this context, the Commission encourages meaningful dialogue between Türkiye and its neighbours paving the way towards full reconciliation.

Good neighbourly relations form an integral part of Türkiye's process of moving towards the EU. As stressed in the Commission's 2024 Report on Türkiye ⁽¹⁾, the country is expected to unequivocally commit to good neighbourly relations, international agreements and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

⁽¹⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/8010c4db-6ef8-4c85-aa06-814408921c89_en?filename=T%C3%BCrkiye%20Report%202024.pdf