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Answer given by Mr Síkela
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.4.2025)

The Commission is concerned about the reports of attacks and persecution against Christians and committed to defending fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion and belief, and uses diplomatic and cooperation instruments for this purpose.

The EU consistently condemns discrimination, intolerance, violence and persecution against or by any person based on the grounds of religion or belief. The lack of appropriate channels for political dialogue and the insufficient willingness of the Government make exchanges challenging. Nonetheless, the EU urges regularly Nicaragua to put an end to this persecution and any other human rights violation, and to ensure respect and protection of human and fundamental rights.

At the same time, climate change is a critical priority for Nicaragua, given its high vulnerability to natural disasters and the significant impact on its predominantly agricultural economy, livelihoods, food security, and public health. Addressing climate-related challenges serves as an opportunity to engage with local actors in a complex and restrictive environment.

Climate-related projects are an entry point to promote resilience, poverty reduction and gender equality. While no specific earmarking of funds is foreseen, EU-funded projects in Nicaragua are designed to improve the living conditions of population. A human rights-based approach is applied to ensure no one is left behind and that all fundamental freedoms are preserved.

In recent years, projects in Nicaragua, funded under the civil society organisations and human rights and democracy thematic programmes, have been implemented by a wide range of civil society organisations, including faith-based organisations.