

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003184/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(6 August 2025)**

Subject: Christianity and the EU

Christianity is a fundamental element of European culture and history. Since Roman times, it has profoundly shaped Europe's values, art, education and social morality. Concepts such as human dignity, caring for others and social justice are rooted in Christian tradition.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, Christianity continued to influence urban culture: churches and parishes acted as centres of social cohesion, while many welfare movements were inspired by the Christian ideal of solidarity.

The Virgin Mary is a figure that is particularly symbolic of European identity. Cathedrals bearing her name can be found in cities such as Paris (Notre-Dame), Rome (Santa Maria Maggiore), Munich and Florence. All over Europe, thousands of churches are named after her.

The Lisbon Treaty provides for institutional dialogue between the EU and the Churches. The EU's values, such as freedom and solidarity, are partly founded on Christian morality, which remains a vibrant element of European cultural continuity.

1. To what extent is the Commission working with the Christian Churches to defend the common principles and character of Europe?
2. How many times has it made sure that Christian names are given to European programmes, e.g. under Horizon Europe?
3. How does it make use of Christian worship and celebrations, such as Easter, Christmas and the Assumption of Mary (15 August), in European policy decisions?

Submitted: 6.8.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(29 October 2025)**

The Preamble of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) refers to the inspiration drawn from the cultural, religious and humanist inheritance of Europe, from which have developed the universal values of human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law. The religious inheritance of Europe, including its Christian inheritance, is the foundation of the values common to the Member States on which the Union is founded, as set out in Article 2 TEU.

In this context, the Commission is pursuing a regular dialogue with churches, religious and non-confessional organisations, based on Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, to which Christian churches and organisations are regularly invited.

The names of European programmes are chosen according to the topics and objectives attached to these programmes.
