

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004300/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Afroditi Latinopoulou (PFE)
(3 November 2025)

Subject: Intensifying persecution of Christians and the EU's inability to intervene effectively

While thousands of Christians are being massacred in Nigeria, Syria, Congo and elsewhere or sentenced to death under 'blasphemy' laws in Pakistan, and entire Christian communities are being driven from their homes in the Middle East, the European Union risks being left as a bystander. The fact that the post of Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief has remained vacant for a prolonged period of time limits the Union's ability to respond effectively to the growing persecution of Christians internationally.

The Vice-President/High Representative is asked:

1. How soon does she intend to fill the Special Envoy vacancy so that the EU has an effective mechanism for intervention on behalf of persecuted Christians?
2. Will it be ensured that the new mandate of the Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief explicitly mentions the need to protect Christians, especially in areas where systematic persecution is recorded?
3. What immediate and binding measures does the EU intend to take to ensure that its bilateral and multilateral relations include specific clauses on the protection of Christians and not just vague declarations?

Submitted: 3.11.2025

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(22 June 2026)

The worsening situation for religious communities in many parts of the world must be addressed. The rise in hate speech and religious intolerance is another worrying trend worldwide that should be addressed.

The Commission has decided to designate Ms McGuinness as Special Envoy for freedom of religion or belief outside the EU. As stated in her mandate, the Envoy will pay particular attention to address the discrimination and persecution of people belonging to religious minorities, including Christian minorities across the world.

The Envoy will draw on expertise and support from the relevant Commission services and work in close coordination with the European External Action Service and EU Delegations, in particular ahead of missions to third countries.

The Envoy will coordinate closely with the EU Special Representative for Human Rights and will continue engaging with religious and non-confessional actors, including in the context of Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union: dialogue with churches, religious as well as philosophical and non-confessional associations.
