

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004874/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(9 December 2025)**

Subject: Systematic repression of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the need for an EU response

Recent joint interventions within the framework of the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council denounce systematic violations of religious freedom in Ukraine, including persecution of the old/canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC), deprivation of Metropolitan Onufriy's citizenship, confiscation of churches, criminal prosecutions of clergy and human rights defenders, as well as violent attacks and torture.

Kyiv is implementing the law 'on the protection of constitutional order in the sphere of the activities of religious organisations', which, according to the UN, violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and deprives the UOC of fundamental rights, leading to a de facto ban on the Church and widespread violations of religious and cultural heritage.

As the EU states that it supports the rule of law, religious tolerance and the protection of minorities, and given that UN complaints now document that the Kyiv regime is collectively targeting millions of believers of the pre-existing Orthodox Church:

1. How does the Commission assess the UN findings of 'collective punishment' of the UOC and blatant violations of religious freedom in Ukraine?
2. Will the Commission demand that the Ukrainian authorities immediately stop prosecutions, seizures and administrative measures against the UOC as a condition of the country's progression towards Europe?
3. Will the Commission consider activating sanctions mechanisms against Ukrainian entities responsible for the persecution of clergy, the destruction of monuments and violations of international obligations?

Submitted: 9.12.2025

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(6 February 2026)**

The Commission is aware of reports expressing concern about the ongoing judicial scrutiny in Ukraine over the alleged ecclesiastical and canonical links with the Moscow Patriarchate of some representatives and entities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church as well as of the systematic suppression of the freedom of belief in Ukrainian territories currently occupied by Russian forces.

The constitution of Ukraine provides for the right to freedom of religion and belief, as stipulated in the European Convention on Human Rights ⁽¹⁾, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights ⁽²⁾ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ⁽³⁾.

In the context of Ukraine's accession negotiations with the EU, the Commission monitors the implementation of the law of Ukraine 'On the protection of the constitutional order in the field of activities of religious organisations' ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission pays close attention to the guidance of international organisation such as the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights ⁽⁵⁾, as well as the EU guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief ⁽⁶⁾.

In accordance with its foundational treaties, the EU promotes human rights within and beyond its borders. The Treaty on European Union ⁽⁷⁾ particularly highlights the importance of the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

These and other fundamental rights are part of Ukraine's accession negotiations with the EU and are regularly raised with the Ukrainian government.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/convention_eng.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12012P/TXT>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/ccpr.pdf>.

⁽⁴⁾ Law No 3894-IX of 20 August 2024.

⁽⁵⁾ [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2014\)023-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2014)023-e)

[https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL\(2004\)061-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL(2004)061-e).

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/137585.pdf>.

⁽⁷⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-fd71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.