

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000118/26
to the Commission
Paolo Borchia (P/E)
(14 January 2026)**

Subject: Establishment of a mechanism to monitor incitement to discrimination against Christians in cultural works within the EU

The book *Péchés et guérison*, which is an Islamic text containing statements encouraging discrimination and violence against Christians and Jews, has recently been published in France. The work is being marketed on digital platforms and was even temporarily included in the *Bonus cultura* cultural voucher scheme in Italy.

The EU legal framework covers incitement to discrimination and violence on the grounds of religion through instruments such as:

- Framework Decision 2008/913/GAI on combating certain forms of racism and xenophobia;
- Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which prohibits discrimination;
- Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 — the Digital Services Act (DSA), which imposes obligations on platforms to manage illegal content, including forms of incitement to discrimination;
- the European codes of conduct against incitement to discrimination, which form an integral part of the DSA framework.

In the light of the above:

1. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that public funding and incentives do not serve to disseminate works containing incitement to discrimination or violence against religious communities, including Christians, in the EU?
2. Does it see a need to make explicit references to Christian communities, alongside those that already exist for other forms of religious discrimination, in EU initiatives on the prevention of incitement to discrimination in cultural, digital and non-digital publications and works?

Submitted: 14.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(16 March 2026)**

Before awarding EU funding, the Commission carries out a rigorous selection process on grant beneficiaries based on objective criteria, such as the exclusion criteria or the EU restrictive measures.

The revised Financial Regulation ⁽¹⁾ introduced an explicit ground for excluding entities from receiving EU funds if they have engaged in incitement to hatred or violence.

EU funded projects are then closely monitored to ensure that they are implemented according to the grant agreement which requires that beneficiaries must respect EU values also during the implementation.

Measures such as the termination of the grant can be taken in cases of fraud, irregularities, substantial errors or serious breach of contractual obligations, including the violation of EU values.

Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on combating certain forms of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law ⁽²⁾, referred to by the Honourable Member, defines the criminal offence of public incitement to violence or hatred against a group or a member of such group defined by reference to a number of criteria, including religion.

It also requires Member States to ensure that the racist and xenophobic motive of crimes, including those based on religion, is considered an aggravating circumstance or is otherwise taken into account when determining the penalty.

It remains however a national competence to investigate or prosecute cases of alleged hate offences, including those targeting Christians and those arising in the context of cultural or digital publications.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024.

⁽²⁾ Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, pp. 55-58.