

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003311/26
to the Commission**

Željana Zovko (PPE), Dolors Montserrat (PPE), Nicolás Pascual de la Parte (PPE), Loránt Vincze (PPE), Miriam Lexmann (PPE), Reinhold Lopatka (PPE)

(24 August 2026)

Subject: Protection of Catholic religious sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. In the light of the recent appalling act of vandalism targeting the Catholic pilgrimage site of Medjugorje, including the desecration of statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the destruction of a place of prayer, as well as a series of previously documented attacks on Catholic churches, shrines and places of worship across Bosnia and Herzegovina, how does the Commission, through the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, intend to contribute to the protection of Catholic religious sites and the effective safeguarding of freedom of religion or belief, which is a fundamental right and a core value of the European Union?
2. Furthermore, how is the Commission addressing the repeated targeting of Christian religious heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the context of the country's EU accession process and its obligations to uphold fundamental rights, protect religious communities and combat religiously motivated intolerance?

Submitted: 24.8.2026

Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(14 October 2026)

The European Commission has taken note of the incidents in Medjugorje on 28 July 2026 and the subsequent apprehension of a foreign national whom the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina ordered into pre-trial detention as a suspect on 30 July 2026.

As a candidate country, Bosnia and Herzegovina is expected to ensure the protection of fundamental rights and legal guarantees on freedom of religion and belief, which are core EU values and an integral part of Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU accession path.

The Commission continues to closely monitor, assess and report on relevant developments in the Commission's annual report on Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly under Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights) and in bilateral contacts.
