

To:

Mrs Ursula von der Leyen, European Commission President
Mr Magnus Brunner, Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration

Brussels, 4 April 2025

Subject: Appointment of a Coordinator on combatting attacks and discrimination against Christians

Honourable Madame President, Honourable Mr Brunner,

We, undersigned members of the Intergroup on Freedom of Religion, Belief and Conscience, call upon you, President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, to appoint a Coordinator on combatting attacks and discrimination against Christians in the European Union.


The most recent (2024) report from the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe (OIDAC Europe) documented 2,444 crimes targeting Christians in 35 European countries, up from 749 incidents in 2022. Of these, 232 were personal attacks on Christians, ranging from harassment to physical violence. The most affected countries were France (1,000 incidents reported), the UK (700), and Germany (277, double the total of last year).

In view of the clear increase in such attacks, the European Union needs to restate its clear commitment to the fundamental right to freedom of thought, conscience, and belief. The European Union already has a Coordinator to combat antisemitism and foster Jewish life in Europe, and one to combat anti-Muslim hatred, recently assigned to the Secretariat-General, directly supporting the President of the European Commission.

It is now high time that the incidents against Christians are properly addressed. We therefore appeal to you, Commission President and Commissioner for Internal Affairs to deepen your actions to combat anti-Christian hatred and to appoint a Coordinator on combatting attacks and discrimination against Christians.

Yours sincerely,

Co-chairs of the Intergroup on the Freedom of Religion, Belief and Conscience



Miriam Lexmann MEP



Bert-Jan Ruijsen MEP

Supported and co-signed by the members of the Intergroup on the Freedom of Religion, Belief and Conscience:

Tobiasz Bocheński MEP, Poland, ECR
Elena Donazzan MEP, Italy, ECR
Carlo Fidanza MEP, Italy, ECR
Bart Groothuis MEP, the Netherlands, Renew
Nathalie Loiseau MEP, France, Renew
Reinhold Lopatka MEP, Austria, EPP
Karlo Ressler MEP, Croatia, EPP
Tomislav Sokol MEP, Croatia, EPP
Sebastian Tynkynnen MEP, Finland, ECR
Charlie Weimers MEP, Sweden, ECR
Fernand Kartheiser MEP, Luxembourg, ECR