

**Question for written answer E-003308/2018/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: The rights of the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria

Prior to 1963, the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria had been officially recognised. Subsequently, however, it was declared non-existent and the Bulgarian state began an assimilation and prosecution campaign.

Ten years after Bulgaria became an EU Member State in 2007, this policy has changed very little: the Macedonian minority is still not recognised, the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities has been neglected, no Macedonian NGO or political party can be registered or active, and citizens who consider themselves to be Macedonians cannot officially state as much.

These policies have led to 11 European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) judgements against Bulgaria, and have been described in every major human rights report.

- How will the Commission ensure that Bulgaria respects human rights, including the rights of the European citizens in Bulgaria who belong to the Macedonian minority?
- How will the EU oblige Bulgaria to officially register Macedonian associations, movements and political parties?