

**Question for written answer E-000276/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Increasing persecution of Christians worldwide

On 17 January 2024, the non-governmental organisation Open Doors published its World Watch List 2024¹, which ranks the 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution and discrimination because of their faith. According to the report, Christians worldwide are increasingly experiencing physical violence as well as pressure in various spheres of life. In particular, religiously motivated violence is intensifying in sub-Saharan Africa, while the number of attacks on Christian churches, shops and homes has grown enormously across regions compared to previous years.

1. How does the Commission intend to use the findings of the World Watch List 2024?
2. Does the Commission agree that more attention to issues linked to freedom of religion or belief is needed in the EU's human rights policy and the EU's bilateral relations with third countries?
3. In this context, does the Commission consider the resources and capacity allocated to the EU Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the EU to be sufficient?

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¹ <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/2024-advocacyreport/>.