

FORM FOR TABLING A QUESTION FOR
WRITTEN ANSWER (Rule 130)

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PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

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COMMISSION

Priority question

AUTHOR(S): Jordi Sebastià

SUBJECT: Macedonian minority rights in Bulgaria
(please specify)

TEXT:

OMO "Ilinden" PIRIN, was banned in 2000 by the Bulgarian Constitutional Court. This political party representing the Macedonian minority has remained banned right up to the present, in spite of the fact that a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in 2005, found the ban to be unlawful. Indeed, during the period from 2001 - 2008, the Bulgarian courts rejected four attempts by OMO "Ilinden" PIRIN to obtain official registration and the organisation is still banned.

Bulgarian courts have also rejected separate applications for the registration of several cultural associations promoting Macedonian culture, the Macedonian language etc. Moreover, the Bulgarian courts make assertions denying the existence of the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria, despite the fact that Bulgarian census results demonstrates the existence of people with an ethnic Macedonian identity. In fact, Bulgaria has deliberately excluded the Macedonian minority from the scope of application of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Does the EC intend to question and sanction the Bulgarian authorities for this non-compliance with basic democratic standards? Is almost 10 years of leaving this to the "council of Europe" not enough as for the EU to now undertake immediate action?

Signature(s):

Date: 30/09/2014