

**Question for written answer E-016030/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

María Teresa Giménez Barbat (ALDE)

Subject: Freedom of religion and humanism in school curriculum

The High Court in the UK pronounced a recent judgment in favour of three families – supported by the British Humanist Association (BHA) – challenging the government's new religious studies GCSE, which they said was failing to reflect equality of belief and pluralism in the school curriculum by not including non-religious world views such as humanism.

The new syllabus requires in-depth study of two faiths, chosen from amongst Buddhism, Christianity, Catholic Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism: when details of the new religious studies course were published, 28 religious leaders wrote to the Department for Education urging the government to rethink the curriculum and include the study of humanism.

What measures has the Commission taken to protect impartiality towards religion or belief in schools, in compliance with Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union?

How have the EU Guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief, adopted by the Council of the European Union on 24 June 2013, been implemented in the European education systems, taking into consideration humanism and non-religious views?