




## Parliamentary questions

12 July 2017

E-004697-17

**Question for written answer  
to the Commission**  
**Rule 130**  
**Liisa Jaakonsaari (S&D)**

► **Subject: Treatment of religious minorities in Russia**

 Answer(s)

Russia's legislation guarantees freedom of religion for all citizens, but despite this fact, on 20 April 2017 the Russian Supreme Court granted an application to declare the Jehovah's Witnesses religious organisation an extremist movement and to ban and suppress its activities.

On 25 May 2017, the Danish EU citizen Dennis Christensen was arrested at a religious gathering of Jehovah's Witnesses, and he is still on remand in Russia. Christensen is the first Jehovah's Witness to have been arrested on account of his religious convictions since the Soviet Union ceased to exist.

What will the Commission do to secure freedom of religious and the position of peaceful religious communities in Russia?

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Original language of question: **FI**

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