

**Question for written answer E-007477/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
Philippe Juvin (PPE)**

Subject: Iraq's Cultural Heritage

The Director General of UNESCO stated at the symposium of 29 September 2014 entitled 'Iraqi heritage in danger: How can it be protected?' that Iraq, the cultural mosaic and the cradle of civilization, is today the victim of a war against culture and cultural cleansing. Indeed, the Islamic, Christian, Kurdish and Jewish cultural heritage is being deliberately destroyed or attacked by IS jihadists. Cultural sites, such as the tomb of the prophet Jonah in Mosul, Assyrian palaces and churches and other monuments have been destroyed and looted. Furthermore, IS is carrying out excavations to sell items on the European and Asian markets to finance its terrorist activities.

1. How does the EU intend to fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property (statues, other ancient artefacts) from Iraq, particularly within the framework of police and customs cooperation between European countries with the rest of the world?
2. What actions will be taken to fight specifically against the trafficking of these cultural goods on the internet?
3. Does the Union intend to raise awareness of this issue among European museums, the European art market and European citizens and punish the illicit trade Iraqi cultural objects?