

**Question for written answer E-009734/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Destruction of Bellapais Abbey

Bellapais Abbey, one of the most significant remaining monuments of Gothic monastic architecture in the eastern Mediterranean, lies just outside the occupied town of Kyrenia. Its present name is derived from the French '*Abbaye de la Paix*' or 'Monastery of Peace'. This monument is important not only for Cyprus – where it is treasured by Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots alike – but for the entire Mediterranean.

This is why the protests about what is happening to the monument today come from civil society as a whole, including both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

According to a report in the Turkish Cypriot newspaper AFRIKA on 11/11/2014 and numerous posts by Turkish Cypriot archaeologists in the social media, the Turkish occupation authorities have begun work to build a large wastewater treatment tank directly below the Abbey, thereby increasing the risk that it may collapse.

Will the Commission take immediate steps to save the Abbey?