

**Question for written answer E-011012/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Protection of immovable heritage as a European competence

The term 'environment' used in the wording of Article 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union¹ can be interpreted to refer not only to the 'natural living environment' but also to the anthropogenic/cultural living environment (immovable heritage or historic environment). In other words, the surroundings in which people live, work and carry out recreational activities fall within the area of competence of the EU. This interpretation is accepted by the majority of institutions responsible for the administration of monuments and landscapes in the EU. If this broad interpretation of the term 'environment' in the Treaty were to be applied, it would then be absolutely essential to have a common EU policy for monuments, archaeology and landscapes by analogy with the natural living environment.

1. What definition of the term 'immovable heritage' has been adopted by the EC?
2. Does the Commission agree with the above-mentioned interpretation of the term 'environment'?
3. If so, does the Commission intend to set out a policy framework for immovable heritage in the near future containing a regulatory framework for monuments, archaeology and historic landscapes?

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT&from=EN>.