

**Question for written answer E-005020/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: Recognition by Parliament of the destruction of heritage in Syria and Iraq as a war crime and a crime against humanity

In the light of the amendment to the annual report on human rights and democracy in the world 2013 and the European Union's policy on the matter¹ that was approved during the March part-session in Strasbourg and that condemns the destruction of part of the archaeological and artistic heritage in Syria and Iraq as a war crime and as a crime against humanity, what measures does the Commission intend to take in order to combat criminal acts such as the demolition of archaeological sites in Nimrud, Hatra and Dur-Sharrukin, the plunder of historical goods in the museum of Mosul, and the ravaging and theft of antiquities perpetrated by Islamic State and the Assad regime in Iraq and Syria?

Given that the United Nations Security Council has banned the trade in Syrian antiquities, how will the EU address concretely the looting and trafficking of Syrian antiquities within its borders?

¹ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2013)0575.