

**Question for written answer E-008579/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)

Subject: Islamic State in Palmyra

Islamic State fighters have overrun most of the historic Syrian city of Palmyra, in a blow to efforts to repel the advancing jihadists after the fall of the Iraqi city of Ramadi. The jihadists, who in 2014 declared a 'caliphate' straddling Iraq and Syria, are notorious for demolishing archaeological treasures. They appear to have fought their way into Palmyra on foot after breaking through to the city's north. It was unclear whether they had reached Palmyra's UNESCO-listed heritage site in the city's south-western quarter, which includes ancient temples and colonnaded streets, and the adjacent museum housing priceless artefacts.

Does the Commission have any information on the current situation in Palmyra and the fate of the archaeological treasures there?