

**Question for written answer E-003001/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miltiadis Kyrkos (S&D)

Subject: Violation of religious freedom in Turkey

The historic Monastery of the Transfiguration which is located on the hill opposite the Halki Theological School in Turkey dates from the first half of the 19th century. It is one of four monasteries on the island of Halki and is built on a site ceded to the Greek Orthodox community before the 19th century.

In November 2007, a significant part of the monastery was demolished by Forest Service officials and the case was referred to the courts. The mobilisation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople prevented the complete destruction of the monastery and the complete takeover of the site. Now the Turkish services are taking this issue up again, invoking a court decision.

In the light of the above, will the Commission say:

- Is it aware of the above-mentioned acts?
- Are these acts compatible with the protection of religion freedom which constitutes a precondition for accession to the EU?