

**Question for written answer E-009635/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)

Subject: Award of a European grant of EUR 2.5 million to the exhibition 'Islam, it's also our history'

The touring exhibition 'Islam, it's also our history' has received a European grant of EUR 2.5 million. According to the project description: 'The historical evidence displayed by the exhibition – the reality of an old-age Muslim presence in Europe and the complex interplay of two civilisations (...) – underpins an educational and political endeavour: helping European Muslims and non Muslims alike to better grasp their common cultural roots and cultivate their shared citizenship.'

At a time when Islamists are perpetrating brutal attacks in Europe, the award of this enormous grant seems like a provocation towards victims, and Europeans in general, who say that they no longer feel at home in their own countries and fear that, in the name of 'living together', authorities are accepting the rule of foreign laws and customs on their own territory. The Commission is asked:

1. in its opinion, should Islam and Christianity be considered on an equal footing with regard to their contribution to European history and culture, which would imply admitting that Islamic law (Sharia) is fully compatible with European values?
2. Would it not have been more appropriate to invest the EUR 2.5 million in programmes to safeguard the cultural and architectural heritage of Europe?