

**Question for written answer E-003619/2017**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Dominique Bilde (ENF)**

Subject: Italian cultural heritage and the European Year of Cultural Heritage

Italy has come up with a novel way of enhancing its cultural heritage: 103 properties belonging to the state and to local authorities will be made available to young entrepreneurs, associations and cooperatives, who will take on the task of restoring them. In so doing, Italy is drawing on private initiatives to enhance neglected aspects of its cultural heritage.

This decision is also likely to help areas hard hit by globalisation, which is tending to concentrate economic and tourist activity in large cities, as the properties are located on some of the many footpaths and cycle tracks which criss-cross the country.

Italy has thus taken the welcome step of drawing on private initiatives to enhance the cultural heritage of disadvantaged areas.

Given that 2018 will be the European Year of Cultural Heritage, will the Commission support this initiative?