

**Question for written answer E-004617/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Support to restore the Alcobaça Monastery

The Cistercian Abbey of Santa Maria de Alcobaça, founded in 1153 by King Afonso Henriques, was the result of a donation made by the first King of Portugal to Bernard of Clairvaux. Construction began in 1178, 25 years after the White Monks arrived in Alcobaça, but the Abbey only came to be inhabited in 1222-1223. It was one of the most powerful abbeys in the Cistercian Order. Its value is internationally acknowledged, and it has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1989.

Large parts of the monument are significantly damaged and are in need of urgent restoration and renovation works. The deterioration of the ceilings and floors is visible in many of the rooms. Financial constraints linked to the period of intervention by the 'troika' in Portugal are partly responsible for this situation.

I would like to ask the Commission what support is available from the structural funds, or from other programmes supporting the enhancement of cultural heritage, for the restoration of this Abbey, either directly or through the European Charter of Cistercian Abbeys and Sites association and the European Route of Cistercian Abbeys.