

Question for written answer E-005160/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: EU action to mark the 2500th anniversary of the Battle of Salamis

29 September marked 2497 years since the Battle of Salamis, which took place in 480 BC and resulted in a victory for the Greeks over the Persians, a victory of democracy over totalitarianism.

Many historians consider the Battle of Salamis to be one of the most important battles in world history, arguing that if the Greeks had lost, the probable capture of Greece by the Persians would have thwarted the development of Greek – and subsequently European – civilisation, as most modern western civilisation, such as philosophy, science, personal freedom and democracy, has its roots in the Ancient Greek world.

Moreover, the civilisation of Ancient Athens, which set the human spirit alight, reached its apogee immediately after its victory in the Persian Wars.

September 2021 will mark 2500 years since the end of the Battle of Salamis and will be a unique opportunity to honour the important role it played in shaping European culture.

Can the Commission say:

What activities are being planned, in cooperation with the Greek authorities, to mark this anniversary and organise fitting celebrations for this historic event, which is of seminal importance for culture, democracy and Europe itself?