

**Question for written answer P-006603/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Liliana Rodrigues (S&D)

Subject: Use of European financing to demolish buildings of historical importance in Funchal

The reply from Commissioner Crețu to my written question E-004899-16 states that the purpose of the operational programme 'Sustainable Development & Efficient Use of Natural Resources' is the 'rehabilitation and protection' of historic bridges.

Representatives of the Office of the Regional Secretary for Parliamentary and European Affairs were quoted in *Funchal Notícias* as saying 'the project provided for the demolition of bridges' and 'the Commission was one of the first bodies to know this'; something it 'approved'.

One of the four bridges in question, the *Ponte da Saúde*, has already been demolished, as have the *Ponte do Cidrã* and the centuries-old volcanic stone city walls. In June 2016, the *Ponte Nova* was only given a stay of execution following after pressure from citizens.

Was the Commission aware that the government of the autonomous region of Madeira planned to demolish historic bridges that were over 200 years old, historic landmarks that are an indelible part of the identity of Madeira and the heritage and culture of both Portugal and Europe?

Does the Commission endorse the destruction of historical heritage with European funding?

What does the Commission intend to do to safeguard these historical buildings that form part of Europe's cultural heritage?