

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0154/06  
by Konstantinos Hatzidakis (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Destruction of monuments in the Armenian cemetery of Julfa, Azerbaijan

The 1500-year old cemetery of Julfa, which is situated in the province of Nakhichevan in Azerbaijan, is undisputedly of exceptional historical and cultural value. More than 10 000 'cross stones' - elaborately sculpted memorial columns - were recorded there, some of them from the 8th century. Recently, however, many of the monuments in the cemetery have been destroyed by the Azeri authorities.

Regardless of the differences between Azerbaijan and Armenia and given that the cemetery of Julfa is part of our world cultural heritage, what action will the Commission take to help safeguard this monument?