

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3650/07

by Nikolaos Sifunakis (PSE), Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL), Maria Badia i Cutchet (PSE), Giovanni Berlinguer (PSE), Lissy Gröner (PSE) and Marianne Mikko (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Re-opening of Eressos Museum on the island of Lesbos

In 1965 the Archaeological Museum of Eressos was founded in Eressos on Lesbos, the birthplace of the lyric poet Sappho, to house the archaeological collection which had been gathered from the end of the 19th century which had been kept until then in Eressos Agricultural College. The Museum which is the achievement of local people who contributed financially to it, closed in 2001 following a decision by the Archaeological service (10th Inspectorate of Classical and Prehistoric Antiquities) in order to allow the buildings and exhibits to be restored. It has remained closed since then, despite the efforts of the Municipality of Eressos, local associations and inhabitants to have it reopened.

Bearing in mind the fact that over the last few years Community funds have been used to found other museums on Lesbos, such as the Natural History and Petrified Forest Museum and the Olive Oil Industry Museum, will the Commission say:

1. Have the Greek authorities submitted an application for co-funding so as to reopen Eressos Museum under the Third CSF? Is it included in the plan for the National Strategic Reference Framework?
2. On the basis of Article 4, paragraph 7, of Regulation (EC) No. 1080/2006<sup>1</sup>, would a project of such cultural and regional importance receive co-funding under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)?
3. How is the closure of an important regional museum for a long period of time compatible with the objective of protecting and promoting the cultural heritage and promoting culture as a vital factor in economic development?

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p.1.