

**Question for written answer E-000786/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Fabrizio Bertot (PPE)

Subject: Repatriation of the remains of Europeans buried in Egypt

Even though a week has passed since the new Constitution was approved in Egypt by popular referendum, the situation in the country is growing increasingly unstable, with more and more people being killed (almost 100 in the past few days alone) or injured in street clashes and attacks that are showing no sign of abating.

Alarminglly, the conflict is now spreading from politics to religion, with Islamic fundamentalists carrying out attacks against the Christian community, not to mention the desecration and vandalism that has already taken place in a number of Christian cemeteries.

Thousands of European soldiers (predominantly Italian, German and British) who died during the Second World War are buried in Egypt, primarily at the War Memorial at El Alamein, while the remains of the Italian King Vittorio Emanuele III are interred in St Catherine's Cathedral in Alexandria.

Taking the above into account, does the Commission intend to take all possible measures and investigate all feasible ways of protecting these cemeteries from desecration and to immediately repatriate the remains of eminent Europeans, such as King Vittorio Emanuele III, whose tombs are at a very real risk of being vandalised?