

**Question for written answer E-001649/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Lefteris Christoforou (PPE)**

**Subject:** Supporting cooperation between Greece, Cyprus and Israel in the fields of education, research, innovation and culture

Cooperation between Greece, Cyprus and Israel is an important means of maintaining peace in the south-eastern Mediterranean region. The involvement of the two EU Member States in question also strengthens the EU's presence and its overall role in the region. The trilateral agreement is an initiative that was launched in 2013 and to date its main objective has been to ensure the cooperation of the three countries in the region regarding energy. The competent authorities of the countries concerned have, however, stressed that this cooperation could be further strengthened through education programmes, mainly at academic and research levels, covering youth mobility and cooperation, as well as common cultural actions. The exchange of know-how and innovation in technology and the development of start-ups have a particularly important role to play in this connection.

In the light of the above, will the Commission say:

1. How can it support research, educational and cultural actions involving the three countries in question?
2. What about programmes for young people?
3. Are any resources available in the context of the EU's cultural diplomacy initiatives?

Supporter<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the author: Theodoros Zagorakis (PPE)