

**Question for written answer E-002484/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Giorgos Georgiou (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Promoting business interests at the expense of Cyprus's cultural heritage in Pachyammos, Geroskipou

In 2017 the Council of Ministers of the government of Cyprus decided to declassify a monument in Pachyammos, Geroskipou, which, according to new findings by the Department of Antiquities, dates from the Hellenistic Period, so that two tower blocks and a luxury hotel could be built on the site.

This is a mammoth development that constitutes an unprecedented crime not only against the local cultural heritage but also against the natural environment of the area as a whole.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

Is it aware of this serious issue that has stirred up a storm of protest in Cyprus?

Does it consider it good practice to place the business interests of the Archdiocese of Cyprus above the cultural heritage of Cyprus which belongs to and forms part of the cultural heritage of Europe as a whole?

Does it consider that the decision of the government of Cyprus to declassify the area in question so as to allow the planned business development to go ahead will contribute to the promotion of the basic principles of the European Agenda for Culture?

What measures will it take to prevail upon the government of Cyprus to revert to the status quo ante and reverse the controversial declassification of the Geroskipou area so that the archaeological excavations can continue?

