

**Question for written answer E-004917/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Immediate cessation of funding to Turkey for cultural heritage matters

Hagia Sophia and the Chora Monastery have been included in the list of World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. While Turkey is a member of the UNESCO Alliance of Cultures and is (supposedly) committed to interfaith and intercultural dialogue, as well as to promoting tolerance and coexistence between cultures, it has turned the museums of Hagia Sophia and the Chora Monastery into mosques. These moves clearly demonstrate that, as in many other cases, Turkey does not intend to honour its international obligations, not even in matters concerning cultural heritage.

In light of the above, will the Commission reply to the following questions:

1. Does the EU intend to cut funding to Turkey for cultural heritage activities, such as the Common Cultural Heritage Grant Scheme: Preservation and dialogue between Turkey and the EU? <sup>1</sup>
2. What other concrete consequences will there be in response to these unacceptable actions by Turkey in relation to cultural heritage?

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<sup>1</sup> Grant Scheme for Common Cultural Heritage: Preservation and dialogue between Turkey and the EU (<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1576604379982&do=publi.detPUB&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&searchtype=QS&page=1&aoref=167523&userlanguage=en>)