

**Question for written answer E-005754/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Filip De Man (ID)

Subject: Protecting and enhancing the Saracen tower heritage

The European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage covers initiatives that focus particularly on the regeneration of towns and regions by enhancing their cultural heritage. Building heritage is also included in this framework.

The Saracen towers are a part of our cultural heritage about which not enough is known. They have stood since the Middle Ages along the Spanish, French and Italian Mediterranean coast line, where they were used as lookouts. Europe's southern shoreline and shipping were for centuries dogged by relentless attacks by North African pirates and slave traders, a state of affairs that lasted from the Muslim conquest of the Iberian peninsula in 710 until around 1830. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of Europeans were carried off as slaves to Islamic North Africa. The Saracen towers serve as a reminder to Europeans to guard their borders and accordingly attention must be paid to them, including by the Commission, which cares about Europe's cultural heritage.

1. Does the Commission plan to include the Saracen towers on its list of heritage sites to be enhanced?
2. Has the Commission made plans and budgets available for initiatives involving the Saracen towers?
3. If nothing is foreseen as yet, is the Commission planning to include the Saracen towers in a programme?