

**Question for written answer E-006226/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: The trafficking of cultural goods in the EU

The Commission has adopted extensive legislation to protect cultural heritage. Yet, the action plan for strengthening the fight against terrorist financing has linked the trafficking of cultural goods to terrorism financing, and the EU Security Union Strategy has stated that such trafficking is 'one of the most lucrative criminal activities'.

According to Europol reports, the trafficking of cultural goods has recently reached unprecedented levels, pointing to Europe as a source, transit location and final destination for such trafficking. Other reports suggest that a very small percentage of antiquities sold within EU markets have a clear origin. Additionally, widespread use of digital communication technologies allows traffickers to expand their networks and enables them to establish discrete and efficient lines of communication in order to carry out their crimes.

Will the Commission take steps to increase its level of commitment and coordinate more effectively to adopt an action plan, so that it can fully address the issue of the trafficking of cultural goods?