

**Question for written answer E-005163/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou (PPE)

Subject: Encroachment on church properties on the island of Tenedos and destruction thereof by Turkey in breach of the Lausanne Treaty

On 20 and 21 October 2021, the Greek Parliament heard complaints from representatives of the Greek community of Tenedos regarding encroachments on Church property and destruction of the Greek cultural heritage, as evidenced by the demolition of chapels and the refusal to return confiscated Church possessions. Specifically, of the 120 properties on the island that were owned by the Church, including school buildings, 27 have been returned to date, including 12 in respect of which legal proceedings are pending.

These actions by Turkey on the island of Tenedos are in breach of the Lausanne Treaty, resulting in the destruction of world cultural heritage monuments, encroachment on Church properties and refusal to return them, pressure on the Greek community and implied threats to its very existence.

In view of this:

Can the Commission say what measures it can take to protect the cultural heritage of Tenedos?

What view does it take of these actions by Turkey, which are in breach of the Lausanne Treaty?