

**Question for written answer E-000524/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou (PPE)

Subject: Desecration of Panagia Soumela Monastery being allowed by Turkey!

Following the conversion into mosques of Hagia Sophia and Chora Church, which are located in Istanbul, the holding of a discotheque in the historic Panagia Soumela Monastery has now been authorised, a further example of the constant desecration of Orthodox shrines in Turkey.

Panagia Soumela, traditionally the principal place of pilgrimage for Pontic Greeks and all Orthodox Christians, is already on the provisional list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and is expected to be included in the final list following completion of the restoration works.

Given that the Turkish Government is systematically desecrating and defiling religious and historical monuments in flagrant breach of European principles and values:

Can the Commission say what action it is able and willing to take to protect world cultural heritage sites such as the Panagia Soumela Monastery?