

**Question for written answer E-001324/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)**

**Subject:** Destruction of cultural heritage monuments in Ukraine

Since 2014, the imperialist conflict in Ukraine has claimed the lives of hundreds and is having disastrous consequences for cultural heritage. The most recent example is the recent Russian bombardment of Freedom Square and the Palace of Industry in Kharkiv. This infrastructure was built by the Soviet State of Ukraine and consists of global cultural heritage assets.

The Poroshenko Government's Law 2540 of 2015 set a six-month deadline for the removal of communist monuments. In the period up to 2016, 1 320 monuments to Lenin and to 1 069 other important communist figures were removed or vandalised. On 24 July 2015, communist ideology and symbols, namely the Communist Party of Ukraine and all other communist organisations, were outlawed. Special status was granted to nationalists/Nazi collaborators, who were provocatively dubbed 'veterans of the struggle for Ukraine's independence' from 1917 to 1991.

The destruction of historic and cultural monuments – the historic heritage of the people – is of incalculable significance and immense scope. How does the Commission view the fact that it was begun by the Ukrainian governments supported by the EU, US and NATO after the unacceptable coup of 2014? What is its opinion regarding the continuing destruction to this day, with a similar targeting after the abhorrent Russian invasion, in the context of the anti-communist campaign and the two camps of the imperialist conflict?