

**Question for written answer E-001536/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Nikos Androulakis (S&D)

Subject: Acts of destruction in Hagia Sophia in Istanbul

Two years after the transformation of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul - a UNESCO World Heritage site - from a museum into an Islamic mosque, the unacceptable damage to its Imperial Door, which dates back to the 6th century AD, has provoked universal revulsion.

This raises legitimate concerns about the protection of this historic monument, which was for many years, the preserve of Orthodox Christianity, and Turkey's compliance with its obligations to protect this particular cultural heritage site.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say what action it can take to compel Turkey to respect its international obligations regarding the protection and conservation of UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Hagia Sophia in Istanbul?
2. What action will it take, possibly in cooperation with UNESCO, to protect Hagia Sophia more effectively and ensure that the damage is put right?