

EN

E-000072/2023

Answer given by Ms Gabriel

On behalf of the European Commission

(9.3.2023)

The Commission regards the safeguarding and promotion of all forms of cultural heritage and particularly the sites and monuments that are witnesses and guarantors of the European integration process with great importance.

In accordance with Article 167¹ of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the protection of cultural heritage of European significance are primarily a national responsibility. The promotion of the ‘1931 Memorandum of Valencia’s Ateneo Mercantil’, could nonetheless benefit from the labelling of the European Heritage Label (EHL).

The EHL action highlights sites that have played an important role in the history, culture and development of the EU, through information and educational activities. As a matter of comparison, the Ventotene manifesto (Italy) was awarded the Label in 2021. The awarding of the EHL sites takes place every two years. The label will reinforce the legitimacy of the site among European citizens. The next selection will start on 1 March 2023 and will close on 23 December 2023². Sites are preselected by national coordinators³ who hand over their nominees to the Commission.

The Commission invites the responsible entities to enter in contact with their national coordinator in Spain to obtain more information on this action and ongoing procedures.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12008E167&from=EN>

² <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/cultural-heritage/initiatives-and-success-stories/european-heritage-label/application-process-of-the-european-heritage-label>

³ <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/cultural-heritage/initiatives-and-success-stories/european-heritage-label/european-heritage-label-national-coordinators>