

**Question for written answer E-002982/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Demetris Papadakis (S&D)**

**Subject:** Conversion of the church of Agia Anna in the parish of Syrkania, in occupied Kythrea, into a boxing school

The pseudo-state has granted permits to specific individuals to use the religious temple as a gym and more specifically as a boxing school, showing disdain for the cultural and religious heritage of Cyprus.

This action highlights once again the provocation and impertinence shown by the pseudo-state's 'authorities' towards local history.

The individuals who received the relevant permits removed the altarpiece, which was recently erected at the initiative of the Kythreans, hung punch bags from the church ceiling and set up a boxing ring.<sup>12</sup>

In view of this:

1. What tangible steps will the Commission take to stop the desecration of religious spaces?
2. Does the Commission intend to condemn the continued provocative actions against Cyprus?
3. What steps does it intend to take in order for Agia Anna to remain a religious space and part of the EU's cultural heritage?

Submitted: 10.10.2023

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.philenews.com/kipros/koinonia/article/1393116/scholi-gia-box-i-ekklisia-tis-agias-annas-stin-kithrea/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ant1live.com/koinonia/563307\\_aney-proigoymenoy-proklisi-metetrepsan-ekklisia-stin-kythrea-se-gymnastirio-mpox](https://www.ant1live.com/koinonia/563307_aney-proigoymenoy-proklisi-metetrepsan-ekklisia-stin-kythrea-se-gymnastirio-mpox)