

**Question for written answer E-000500/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Domènec Ruiz Devesa (S&D)**

**Subject:** Reimbursement of EU funding used for the preservation of monuments commemorating fascist regimes

On 13 October 2023, taking into account the values of Article 2 of the Treaty, a written question was submitted to the Commission on the incompatibility of ERDF funding with a public space restoration project in Elche, which involves preserving the city's *Cruz a los Caídos* ('Cross to the Fallen') and symbols of Francoism, despite these having been marked for removal in the original plan. The Commission replied that operations supported by European funds 'shall comply with applicable EU and national law', otherwise the beneficiary must reimburse the EU's financial contribution to the relevant programme. The present case constitutes a breach of Spain's Democratic Memory Law. In response, the Mayor of Elche said that the restoration project would be carried out with the Council's own funds.

In view of this:

1. What is the Commission's position on the decision of Elche's PP-Vox government not to comply with an applicable law, implying a waiver of European funds?
2. Does it consider that Elche City Council is respecting European values by prioritising the promotion of a symbol of a totalitarian regime over the principles of respect for democratic memory and applicable law in the EU?

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