

ORAL QUESTION H-0870/02

for Question Time at the part-session in January 2003

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Ioannis Patakis

to the Commission

Subject: Desecration and destruction of the Holy Rock of the Acropolis

The construction of the Acropolis museum at the chosen site has met with strong opposition from important associations and internationally renowned experts. Experts and international organisations have staged public demonstrations and made representations to town planning and judicial services in Greece to draw attention to the fact that Makriyanni archaeological site will inevitably be destroyed if the new Acropolis Museum is built there. In particular they point out the consequences the building under construction – whose mass is incompatible with its environment – will have on the immediate optical vicinity of the Holy Rock of the Acropolis and argue that the construction of large buildings within archaeological sites is prohibited under the Venice Charter (1964) and the Granada Convention (1985) and by Greek legislation.

Given that the project is co-funded by the EU, what measures does the Commission intend to take to prevent the construction of a cultural building which involves the destruction of important monuments and other archaeological findings which came to light during excavations and desecrates one of the most important archaeological sites in the world?

Tabled: 18.12.2002

el