

**Priority question for written answer P-002380/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Alteration of the international cultural and religious heritage of the Apostolos Andreas monastery by Türkiye

According to news reports in the Turkish Cypriot press, a section of the Apostolos Andreas monastery on the Karpasia peninsula, in the Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus, is being turned into a mosque/place of prayer, with funding from Türkiye. This has kicked up a storm among progressive political powers and civil society in the Turkish Cypriot community.

Not only is the Apostolos Andreas monastery one of the holiest and oldest places of worship for Greek Cypriots and the Christian world at large but, just like the Hala Sultan mosque in Larnaca, it is a timeless jewel of the international cultural and religious heritage of Cyprus and Europe as a whole.

Given that the restoration of the Apostolos Andreas monastery in Turkish-occupied Karpasia was one of the most important projects undertaken by the bi-communal Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage with support and funding from the EU:

1. What immediate measures will the Commission take to put pressure on the Turkish government to put an immediate stop to the alterations being made to the character of the Apostolos Andreas monastery and the area surrounding it?
2. What immediate measures will the Commission take to stop the character of the Turkish-occupied areas of Cyprus from being altered, in particular that of religious sites and monuments that are a testament to the breadth and wealth of Cypriot and European civilisation?

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