

**Question for written answer E-002305/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Measures to protect academic and cultural freedom in Europe from foreign interference

Some of the most important museums in France, including the Musée du quai Branly and the Musée Guimet, made headlines in *Le Monde* and other media recently for changing how the origin of some works and pieces was described, when references to the historical territory of Tibet were changed to the Chinese designation ‘Xizang Autonomous Region’ or to ‘the Himalayan world’. This was denounced as clear interference by the Chinese Government and an attempt to erase and rewrite the history and identity of the different peoples annexed by the People’s Republic of China. It should be noted that the historical territory of Tibet has been occupied by China since 1950. The EP Academic Freedom Monitor 2023 edition highlighted how geopolitical tensions may threaten academic freedom. Similarly, Parliament’s 2022 resolution on the implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations denounced the attempted censorship of the Nantes history museum in 2020 as an attempt to violate the constitutional protection of academic freedom and autonomy.

1. In accordance with the Staff Working Document entitled ‘Tackling R&I foreign interference’, does the Commission intend to take any measures to protect academic and cultural freedom in Europe from foreign interference?
2. In light of the current and previous attempts by the Chinese authorities to interfere with academic and cultural freedom in French museums, does the Commission intend to take any action against such interference?

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