

Question for written answer E-003189/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Support for Mount Athos as the most sacred spiritual centre in the EU

Mount Athos is a unique, thousand-year-old monastic state within the EU, with a self-governing status enshrined in Article 105 of the Greek Constitution and protected by international cultural heritage conventions.

The importance of this most sacred spiritual centre is comparable to that of Mecca for the Islamic world or Tibet for the Buddhist tradition, with the difference that Mount Athos belongs politically and geographically to the EU.

It is a vibrant centre of Orthodoxy, with 20 monasteries, 2 000 monks and enormous spiritual, historical and architectural wealth, visited by personalities such as King Charles III and President Putin, alongside artists, writers and ordinary citizens.

Despite this pre-eminence, there is no European support strategy that would ensure:

the protection of monasteries and archives from natural hazards (fires, earthquakes, humidity), their energy and technological upgrading, the possibility of access for researchers and citizens via digital means, their integration into cross-border cultural networks, and respect for the spiritual specificity of the Athonite State.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend, in cooperation with the Holy Community, to include Mount Athos in specific cultural or regional funding programmes, such as Creative Europe, Horizon Europe or the Just Transition Fund?
2. Is there any intention to create a European framework for cooperation with the Holy Community to protect it and raise its international profile?

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