

Question for written answer E-004456/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Nikos Pappas (The Left)

Subject: Protection of the Minoan monument on Papoura Hill, Kastelli and Greece's compliance with European obligations on cultural heritage

On Papoura Hill, in the Kastelli area of Heraklion, an extremely important monumental complex of prehistoric/Minoan times, circular in shape and approximately 50 metres in diameter, was recently discovered. This find has been characterised by the international scientific community as unique in the Aegean area and was recently awarded 'the most significant archaeological discovery of 2024'.

Despite its importance, the Greek authorities approved the installation of radio aids (radar and related infrastructure) for the new airport right next to the monument, without examining or documenting their installation in an alternative location. This decision has provoked strong reactions from the local community, the Regional Council of Crete and scientific bodies, who allege, inter alia, a violation of the country's European obligations arising from the European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992).

Given that the project for the new Kastelli airport is co-financed by European funds:

1. Is the Commission aware of the case of the monument on Papoura Hill and the siting of the radio aids in its immediate vicinity?
2. Does the Commission consider that approval of the project is compatible with Greece's European obligations regarding the protection of cultural heritage (Article 167 TFEU and the Valletta Convention) and will it examine whether the required impact assessment procedures were followed before the approval of the installation of the radio aids?
3. What measures can be put in place to ensure the protection of the monument and Greece's compliance?

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