

**Question for written answer E-005067/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)

Subject: Protection of cultural and religious heritage in Himarë and Albania's accession process

On 18 December 2025, Albania's Ministry of Culture reportedly organised a public event in the village of Vuno in Himarë, with the aim of restoring the church of Saint Spyridon and converting it into a museum, a fact that has caused strong reactions in the local Greek community, given that the site is a place of worship, historical memory and part of the identity of the region^{1, 2, 3}.

According to reports, concerns are being expressed about the change of use and alteration of the historical nature of the monument, without the substantive consent of the local community. The protection of cultural and religious heritage, as well as respect for the rights of minorities, are fundamental criteria in the context of the accession process of candidate countries to the European Union.⁴

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess this incident in relation to Albania's obligations to protect the cultural and religious heritage of minority communities?
2. Does the Commission intend to hold such incidents on Albania's file and take them into account during annual progress reports in the context of its accession process?⁵
3. How is it ensured that decisions concerning monuments of particular cultural and religious significance are taken with transparency and the effective participation of local communities?

Submitted: 23.12.2025

¹ <https://www.parapolitika.gr/politiki/article/1656312/beleris-i-nea-proklisi-tis-kuvernisis-rama-enadion-tis-ethnikis-tautotitas-ton-katoikon-tis-heimarras/>

² <https://www.ekklisiaonline.gr/nea/mpeleris-katangelli-rama-prospathi-na-metatrepse-ekklisia-se-mousio-giatous-armperesides/>

³ <https://spzh.eu/en/amp-news/89777-albanian-authorities-turn-an-orthodox-church-into-a-museum.>

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/?uri=CELEX:12012P/TXT>

⁵ Related questions E-001733/2024, E-001754/2024, E-000340/2025