Question for written answer E-000239/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Repeated damage to places of worship and religious heritage in rural areas

In France, as in several Member States, local councils are reporting an increase in damage to places of worship and religious reflection, such as wayside crosses, statues, chapels and memorial caves.

Such sites play a vital role in local memory and identity in rural areas. Recently, vandals wrecked the Libaux cave in Lessard-en-Bresse (Saône-et-Loire), a replica of the cave at Lourdes built after the Second World War. Statuettes were decapitated, the altar was destroyed and panels were smashed.

This is the third time in 10 years that the cave has been vandalised. In small communities, such sites are principally restored and looked after by volunteers, and security measures are often too expensive.

These events show that religious heritage is under threat in many parts of Europe.

1. Is the Commission planning to make instruments available that will make it possible to help rural municipalities deal with repeated damage to their religious heritage, in particular with a view to restoring and securing the sites concerned?

2. Could the creation of a specific budget heading for the protection and restoration of religious heritage in rural areas be considered?

Supporters[1]

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