

Question for written answer E-002932/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Protecting public-benefit bequests and the wishes of Greece's national benefactors

Greece has one of the strongest traditions of public-benefit bequests in Europe. The estates left behind by national benefactors funded schools, hospitals, scholarships, cultural infrastructure and social actions for many decades, becoming an integral part of Greece's historical and cultural heritage.

The introduction of Law 5259/2025 has been met with strong opposition from civil society actors such as the Panepirot Confederation of Greece, as well as from regional and local authorities. These bodies have expressed concerns about the new legislation centralising the management of public-benefit assets, limiting the role of local communities and potentially affecting the fulfilment of benefactors' wishes, a fundamental principle of public-benefit bequests.

In the light of the principles of good governance, transparency, protection of cultural heritage and subsidiarity, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is it monitoring whether national reforms relating to public-benefit assets and historical bequests ensure transparency, accountability and respect for benefactors' wishes?
2. Does it consider that the preservation of the charitable nature of historical bequests and the protection of cultural heritage are in line with the EU's objectives in the fields of culture, social economy and good governance?
3. Does it intend to issue guidelines or encourage the exchange of best practices between Member States on the management of historical public-benefit foundations and bequests, ensuring transparency, the involvement of local communities and the protection of benefactors' wishes?

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