

Question for written answer E-003224/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Protection of the Holy Monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai and respect for the rule of law in EU-Egypt relations

The Holy Monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, appears to be facing a series of judicial and administrative developments that raise concerns regarding its legal personality, the recognition of its canonical ecclesiastical leadership, its effective judicial representation and the protection of its historic property rights. These issues do not only concern a property dispute, but may be linked to respect for the rule of law, religious freedom and international law.

Given that the EU is deepening its strategic partnership with Egypt and providing significant financial support, while the Treaties require its external action to be based on respect for human rights and the rule of law:

1. Did the Commission take the above developments into account in its recent assessment of Egypt for EU funding?
2. What actions does the Commission intend to take to ensure respect for the religious freedom, institutional autonomy and property rights of the Monastery?
3. Does the Commission intend to examine whether these developments affect Egypt's compliance with the commitments arising from the strategic partnership with the European Union?

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