

**Question for written answer E-003286/2026**

**to the Commission**

Rule 144

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**Subject:** Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine on Mount Sinai: rule of law and EU-Egypt relations

The Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine on Mount Sinai, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the oldest continuously used Christian monasteries in the world, is facing legal and administrative proceedings that raise serious concerns about the recognition of its legal personality, the recognition of its archbishop and abbot by the Egyptian Government, its ability to exercise legal representation before the courts and the protection of its property rights, which are protected by international law. This is happening just as the Egyptian Court of Cassation is about to deliver its final ruling on the case and as the EU deepens its partnership with Egypt.

In light of Articles 2<sup>1</sup>, 3(5)<sup>2</sup> and 21<sup>3</sup> of the TEU and Decision (EU) 2025/1267 providing macro-financial assistance to the Arab Republic of Egypt, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Were the above developments taken into account in the recent positive assessment of Egypt and in the decision to continue providing financial assistance to the country?
2. Are the above developments in line with Egypt's obligations concerning religious freedoms, effective access to justice and the protection of religious institutions?

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<sup>1</sup> Article 2: The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities.

<sup>2</sup> Article 3(5): In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values and interests and contribute to the strict observance of international law, including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter.

<sup>3</sup> Article 21: The Union's action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation: democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights, respect for human dignity, equality and solidarity, as well as respect for the United Nations Charter and international law.