

**Question for written answer E-004178/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Commission President's references to 'Macedonian identity' and 'Macedonian culture' and implementation of the Prespa Agreement

During her visit to North Macedonia, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stated: 'We welcome North Macedonia with its identity and its language. We believe that the Macedonian culture and language can only make our Union richer. Because our motto is "diversity in unity". And we take it very seriously'.¹

The European prospects of North Macedonia are predicated on respect for good neighbourly relations. The use of the term 'Macedonian culture', without clarification, raises questions as to the interpretation and compatibility of the wording with international obligations and the obligation of good neighbourly relations.

The Commission is asked:

1. What does the President mean by the terms 'identity' and 'Macedonian culture'?
2. Does the Commission consider that the use of the term 'Macedonian culture' without geographical or other designation is consistent with the need to avoid confusion between Greek civilisation, the culture and history of the region of Macedonia, from antiquity to the present day, and the Republic of North Macedonia?
3. Does the Commission intend to ensure that statements of the European institutions use terminology that respects good neighbourly relations, international agreements, including the Prespa Agreement, and leaves no room for irredentist or historically misleading interpretations?

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¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_26_2053.