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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.5.2025)

The EU takes very seriously the destruction of cultural heritage, especially in contexts of conflict and crisis. The EU remains firmly committed to the protection of cultural heritage in line with international humanitarian law (IHL), relevant legal frameworks, the EU Concept on Cultural Heritage in conflict and crisis¹, and the relevant Council conclusions².

The EU has been a longstanding supporter of the Palestinian cultural sector. The EU will continue to engage with and support Palestinian artists, writers, poets, academics, and cultural institutions. Preserving cultural expression and fostering pluralism is essential, especially in times of conflict. Through its partnerships and funding instruments, the EU remains committed to amplifying the voices of Palestinian society and promoting cultural diversity as a cornerstone of peacebuilding and mutual understanding.

The EU deplores the damage or destruction of cultural heritage in armed conflicts and condemns the attack to civilians and the deliberate targeting of cultural and educational sites in violation of IHL. The EU consistently calls for respect of IHL and for the universal adherence to and implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and the other international conventions that protect humanity's shared heritage.

The EU also supports initiatives aimed at documenting, investigating, and ensuring accountability for crimes against cultural heritage.

¹ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9962-2021-INIT/en/pdf>

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/50557/st09837-en21.pdf>