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Answer given by Mr Micallef
on behalf of the European Commission
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Safeguarding cultural heritage and the assessment of the impact of infrastructure projects on cultural heritage is a national responsibility. The EU supports Member States in preserving and protecting cultural heritage of European significance. The Commission advances this objective through initiatives such as the European Heritage Label, the European Heritage Days and the European Heritage Awards, for example, which celebrate and strengthen Europe's diverse cultural heritage.

Funding to support cultural heritage is available through several European funding programmes. For example, EU planned European Regional Development Fund support for culture and cultural heritage in Greece amounts to EUR 273.7 million for the period 2021-2027. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization provides financial and technical assistance to World Heritage Sites, including for site management, through its World Heritage Fund. The CulturEU¹ funding guide provides information about available EU funding opportunities for the cultural and creative sectors.

The EU action plan against trafficking in cultural goods² of 13 December 2022 aims to deter criminals effectively, address evolving security threats and to protect cultural heritage within and beyond the EU. The action plan addresses ongoing challenges by improving the prevention and detection of crimes by market participants and cultural heritage institutions; strengthening law enforcement and judicial capabilities; boosting international cooperation, including with source and transit countries of cultural goods affected by conflicts and crises.

¹ <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/funding/cultureu-funding-guide/discover-funding-opportunities-for-the-cultural-and-creative-sectors>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/AUTO/?uri=CELEX%3A52022DC0800>.