

EN

E-004456/2025

Answer given by Mr Micallef
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.1.2026)

The Commission takes note of the situation in the Kastelli area of Heraklion and acknowledges the archaeological significance of the findings.

The Commission takes the safeguarding, protection and promotion of cultural heritage in the highest regard, as again reiterated in the Culture Compass. Key actions such as the READY project¹, implemented by the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the European Heritage Label² and the European Heritage Hub³ represent the concrete side of the Commission's continued engagement in the sector and provide solid pathways to cultural heritage protection from hazards, including man-made, and promotion. The EU's Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU⁴ as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU⁵), foresees that major building or development projects in the EU must first be assessed for their impact on the environment, including cultural heritage.

However, in line with Articles 6 and 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the EU's competence in the field of culture is to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of Members States, with a view to conserving and safeguarding cultural heritage of European significance. The management of archaeological sites therefore remains a national responsibility, and it is recommended that this matter is brought up to the attention of the competent authorities in Greece.

¹ <https://www.iccrom.org/projects/ready-resilience-heritage-face-disasters-climate-risks-and-complex-emergencies>.

² <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/cultural-heritage/initiatives-and-success-stories/european-heritage-label>.

³ <https://www.europeanheritagehub.eu/>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32011L0092>.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32014L0052>.