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Answer given by Mr Micallef
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.3.2026)

The EU action in the field of culture aims to encourage cooperation between Member States, and to support and supplement their actions, including on the conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage, in line with Article 167 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the EU. Management of cultural heritage remains primarily a national responsibility.

In the 2021–2027 programming period, the restoration, preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, including religious, is eligible for support under the European Regional Development Fund. The Fund has already supported religious heritage restoration projects, when linked with local development, social cohesion or the attractiveness of rural areas. The responsibility for the selection of operations lies with the managing authorities, such as the Regional Councils in the case of France.

The Commission's proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 is built on an integrated and flexible delivery model centred on national and regional partnership plans, where Member States and regions have greater flexibility in allocating resources to address local development needs, including religious heritage.