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Answer given by Mr Micallef
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.1.2025)

In March 2023, the Portuguese authorities designated Évora as European Capital of Culture (ECoC) 2027 based on the recommendation of the ECoC expert panel.

Since then, Évora has been subjected to a monitoring process in line with Decision No 445/2014/EU¹. Under the Commission's auspices, the panel monitors the implementation of the ECoC project in Évora, providing guidance and checking that commitments made at selection phase are fulfilled.

After discussions with the relevant public authorities, the Portuguese government published a decree-law in December 2023 establishing the Évora 2027 Association, in line with the Portuguese legislation. It is the responsibility of all concerned authorities at national, regional and local levels to create a solid governance to implement a project of the scale of an ECoC and have an appropriate representation of all parties (including the government as a main funder) in this structure, while ensuring ownership of the project by the title-holding city.

The Commission will continue monitoring the process. In this context, it is important for the Évora 2027 Association to ensure adherence to the bid book to the largest extent possible and for all authorities to work in a good collaboration spirit.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014D0445>