

1. What grounds has Greece cited for not having implemented the Directive?
2. Could failure to incorporate the Directive into national law entail adverse repercussions and, possibly, risks for the cultural objects belonging to Greece and, if so, what are they?

(¹) OJ L 60, 1.3.1997, p. 59.

Answer given by Mr Monti on behalf of the Commission

(23 April 1998)

The Commission is conducting a detailed investigation of the problem raised by the Honourable Member and will inform him of the outcome as soon as possible.

(98/C 323/149)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0968/98

by Katerina Daskalaki (UPE) to the Commission

(30 March 1998)

Subject: Conversion of a monastery into a hotel by the Turks in the occupied part of Cyprus

Reports have emerged that the Turkish regime of occupation in northern Cyprus has given authorization for the Armenian Monastery of Makarios Pentadakylos, known as Armenomonastiri, to be converted into a hotel.

Will the Commission say whether it is aware of these reports and whether it knows what kind of business interests are involved? If not, does it intend to investigate this fresh violation by the occupying regime of the property rights of the Armenian Church and the Armenian people and, more generally, the destruction of monuments of Europe's cultural heritage which are being systematically pillaged and looted in the occupied part of Cyprus?

Answer given by Mr Van den Broek on behalf of the Commission

(23 April 1998)

The Commission is aware of the facts reported by the Honourable Member. It will endeavour to raise the matter in its dealings with the northern part of Cyprus (which are limited to civil society), and point out the need to preserve the monastery. As regards the possible influence of Turkey on northern Cyprus in this connection, the Commission will also endeavour to address the issue in its discussions with the Turkish authorities.

(98/C 323/150)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0972/98

by Mary Banotti (PPE) to the Commission

(30 March 1998)

Subject: Bhutanese refugees and the EU's response

Is the Commission aware that 100 000 Bhutanese refugees are now living in camps in Nepal in the Jhapa and Morang districts?

What aid is the European Union giving to these refugees?

Is the Commission satisfied that the Bhutanese Government recognizes its responsibilities towards these refugees?