

**Question for written answer E-014706/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Great Mosque of Córdoba

The Great Mosque of Córdoba, known institutionally as the Mosque–Cathedral, was declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco in 1984 owing to its extraordinary wealth and complexity and status as a universal symbol of peace and harmony.

It is unquestionably a prime example of the ‘cultural, religious and humanist inheritance of Europe, from which have developed the universal values’ (Treaty on European Union (TEU)) and the diversity of the cultures and traditions of the peoples that the EU must preserve and promote (Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFREU)).

The attitude of the Bishop of Córdoba since his registration of the building in 2006, through the application of confessional, pre-democratic standards – even refusing to allow it to use the name ‘Mosque’ – constitutes a serious violation of the shared values of the EU and the principles of Unesco.

Around 400 000 members of the public and internationally renowned intellectuals have flagged up the risk to the site’s World Heritage status and the importance of maintaining its symbolic role in the current socio-political environment.

Within the scope of its competences on freedoms and the protection of cultural heritage, what action does the Commission intend to take to ensure recognition and protection of the Mosque–Cathedral of Córdoba as a symbol of peace and respect for the diversity of the cultures and traditions of the peoples of Europe (Articles 2 and 3 TEU and 22 CFREU)?