

**Question for written answer E-001456/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Nikos Pappas (The Left)

Subject: The question of the permanent return of the Parthenon marbles

According to recent reports in both the British and the Greek press¹, the new British government is considering the possibility of returning the Parthenon marbles on a loan basis, as part of a ‘charm offensive’ aimed at Europe with a view to reinvigorating the UK’s relations with Europe. The Greek position, on the other hand, is that the marbles should be returned permanently, because a loan would amount to indirect acceptance of the British Museum’s ownership of the marbles.

Taking account of the European Parliament’s resolution in favour of returning the Parthenon marbles², and also the recent amendment vote on the European culture strategy, according to which, if an EU country has a cultural dispute with a third country, the EU is called upon to protect the Member State and its claims³,

can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it intend to support the permanent return of the Parthenon marbles?
2. In the context of promoting the shared European cultural heritage, what actions will the Commission take to support Greece so that the discussion on the return of the marbles is not turned into a diplomatic tool of Britain’s foreign policy?
3. Does the Commission intend to make an official request to UNESCO and the UN Secretary-General to support Greece’s justified claim?

Submitted: 30.7.2024

¹ <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/history/article/labour-opens-door-to-loan-agreement-with-greece-for-elgin-marbles-cvwxqjhwv>; <https://www.kathimerini.gr/society/563150005/parathyro-gia-ta-glypta-toy-parthenona/>

² European Parliament resolution (1999),

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022IP0444>