



Plenary sitting

B8-0455/2016

29.3.2016

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on discrimination against Iraqi religious minorities in the issuing of visas

Edouard Ferrand, Mara Bizzotto

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on discrimination against Iraqi religious minorities in the issuing of visas

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has clearly restricted the number of visas granted to families belonging to Christian and Yazidi religious minorities in Iraq, who have been victims of the Islamist terror rife in the country for many years now;
- B. whereas the number of visas issued by France dropped from 300 in January 2015 to 84 in January 2016;
- C. whereas the conditions families applying for visas must meet initially are draconian, namely, a) being in a vulnerable situation, b) having a link with France and c) proof that accommodation is available for them on their arrival;
 - 1. Points out that these three conditions do not seem to apply to other asylum seekers in France;
 - 2. Notes that besides being discriminatory, restricting the number of visas granted appears contrary to commitments made by the Interior Ministry, which has spoken out in favour of simplifying the procedure;
 - 3. Calls on the Commission, in accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, to make urgent representations to the French Government concerning the management of visa applications from people belonging to Iraqi minorities.