



Plenary sitting

B8-0210/2019

12.3.2019

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on academic freedom and freedom of expression in European universities

Dominique Bilde

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on academic freedom and freedom of expression in European universities

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights,
 - having regard to the report of the British Parliament on Freedom of Speech in Universities of 27 March 2018,
 - having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas some concepts such as ‘microaggressions’, ‘trigger warnings’ or ‘safe spaces’ may restrict academic freedom and freedom of expression;
- B. whereas these restrictions are also characterised by the disruption of public events involving personalities whose opinions, although legal, are considered by some to be offensive, such as Julie Bindel — charged with hostility towards prostitutes (‘whorephobia’) — or the British-Iranian Maryam Namazie, but also through attempted censorship, such as the ‘Rhodes Must Fall’ campaign (in 2016);
- C. whereas the aforementioned report highlighted the violence of certain demonstrations organised against such events and whereas the British Minister Sam Gyimah denounced the ‘culture of censorship’ in universities, which should be a forum for debate;
1. Calls on the Commission and the Member States of the European Higher Education Area to develop recommendations on freedom of expression in universities.