



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

26.5.2015

B8-0488/2015

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on the online sale of works of art destroyed by Islamic State (IS)

Mario Borghezio

B8-0488/2015

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the online sale of works of art destroyed by Islamic State (IS)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 28 April 2015 on the destruction of cultural sites perpetrated by ISIS/Da'esh,
- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas UNESCO's Executive Board recently adopted a decision establishing 'protected cultural areas', the aim of which is to protect cultural heritage in case of conflict, in particular as regards the deliberate destruction of heritage sites, plundering and the illegal trade in cultural artefacts;
- B. whereas the aim of IS to obtain, through destruction, small pieces of bas-reliefs, statues, jewellery, sarcophagi and funerary items and subsequently to sell them online, is a simpler, less regulated, more profitable and safer way for it to fund its operations;
- C. whereas this type of illegal trade covers areas ranging from Syria to Lebanon and Turkey, finally reaching Europe;
 1. Calls on the Commission to take specific urgent measures to halt the online sale and purchase of pieces of works of art from the plundered areas and thus to prevent IS from financing its activities in this way;
 2. Calls on the Commission, in collaboration with the European agencies responsible, to make arrangements for the appropriate monitoring of the online sales websites used by Islamic terrorists.