MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 143 of the Rules of Procedure
on religious freedom in Montenegro

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B9-0115/2020

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on religious freedom in Montenegro

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union and Articles 10 and 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which commit the European Union and its Member States to defending and promoting universal human rights and protecting citizens in their relations with the wider world,

– having regard to European values in the area of religious freedom, and to Article 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union on freedom of religion,

– having regard to Rule 143 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the law on church property adopted on 27 December 2019 by the Montenegrin Parliament provides that the State will take ownership of all church buildings constructed prior to 1918;

B. recalling that the adoption of this law prompted serious civil unrest, blockades and violence throughout the Balkans in support of the Serb minority and the Orthodox church;

1. Expresses deep concern at Montenegro’s law on church property adopted in late December 2019;

2. Reminds Montenegro, as a candidate for EU accession, of its commitment to uphold cultural and religious freedoms;

3. Calls on the Council to monitor closely the situation regarding religious freedom in Montenegro and the rights of the Serb minorities.