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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0235/2020**

8.8.2020

# **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

pursuant to Rule 143 of the Rules of Procedure

on protecting Armenian heritage in Turkey

**Catherine Griset**

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on protecting Armenian heritage in Turkey**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which provides that ‘[t]he Union and the Member States shall foster cooperation with third countries and the competent international organisations in the sphere of culture’,
- having regard to Rule 143 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Turkey is responsible for preserving and safeguarding Armenian cultural heritage;
- B. whereas some of the population is engaging in deliberate acts of destruction such as ‘treasure hunts’ in a search for gold in the ruins;
- 1. Notes that Turkey has not taken measures to curb the disappearance of historic Armenian heritage;
- 2. Stresses the urgency of protecting a heritage that consisted, before 1915, of several thousand monasteries and churches and which is now being destroyed;
- 3. Recalls Turkey’s responsibility in the matter of heritage, Istanbul having been chosen in 2010 as one of the European Capitals of Culture;
- 4. Calls on Turkey to make salvaging the remains of this heritage a priority in cultural policy and to regard the outcome as a condition for retaining its privileged relationship with the European Union.