

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

13.11.2006

0080/2006

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Michael Cashman, Andrew Duff and Richard Howitt

on the French National Assembly's adoption of a law criminalising denial of the 'Armenian genocide of 1915'

Lapse date: 23.2.2007

Written declaration on the French National Assembly's adoption of a law criminalising denial of the 'Armenian genocide of 1915'

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the law adopted on 12 October 2006 by the French National Assembly known as 'reconnaissance du génocide arménien de 1915',
 - having regard to the Council's approval on 3 October 2005 of a framework for negotiations with Turkey on its accession to the EU,
 - having regard to its resolution of 27 September 2006 on the progress of the Turkish accession negotiations,
 - having regard to Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights,
 - having regard to Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Parliament does not believe that recognition by Turkey of the 'Armenian genocide of 1915' should be a precondition for EU membership,
1. Deplores the French National Assembly's decision to adopt a draft law criminalising denial of the 'Armenian genocide of 1915';
 2. Believes that such a law would contradict the universal fundamental right to freedom of expression, which stems from the principles of the French Enlightenment;
 3. Fears that this action is entirely unhelpful to those in Turkey who are campaigning to ensure full respect for the freedom of opinion and expression, precisely at a time when the EU should be deepening its links with Turkey and encouraging more open and honest dialogue;
 4. Does not find that this initiative is designed to improve relations between Turkey and Armenia;
 5. Regrets that this law would set a dangerous precedent by criminalising the denial of an event that has not been officially recognised by all of the principal parties involved;
 6. Calls on the French Senate to reject the draft law;
 7. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the European Council, the European Commission, the French National Assembly and the French Government.