

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

28.11.2007

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Philip Claeys, Frank Vanhecke and Koenraad Dillen

on the partial demolition by the Turkish authorities of an Orthodox monastery
on the island of Halki

Lapse date: 13.3.2008

0107/2007

Written declaration on the partial demolition by the Turkish authorities of an Orthodox monastery on the island of Halki

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in November 2007 officials from the Turkish forestry authorities partially demolished a 19th-century Orthodox monastery on the island of Halki,
- B. whereas, prior to demolition, the custodians of the monastery and their families were forced by Turkish officials to leave the monastery,
- C. whereas these actions are completely contrary to the freedom of religion, which is a significant element of the political Copenhagen criteria,
 1. Condemns the actions of the Turkish forestry authority officials and considers that these are completely contrary to the political Copenhagen criteria;
 2. Calls for the monastery to be restored to its original condition and for compensation to be paid, and an official apology offered, to the Orthodox community;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the Turkish government.