

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Philip Claeys, Frank Vanhecke and Koenraad Dillen

on attempts to secure the forfeiture of the St Gabriel monastery in south-eastern Turkey

Lapse date: 14.4.2009

0003/2009

Written declaration on attempts to secure the forfeiture of the St Gabriel monastery in south-eastern Turkey

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas a group of Turkish and Kurdish Muslims has brought legal proceedings with a view to securing a declaration of forfeiture of the St Gabriel monastery near Midyat in south-eastern Turkey,
- B. whereas such proceedings constitute a flagrant violation of freedom of religion, which is an essential component of the Copenhagen political criteria,
 1. Condemns these legal proceedings and considers them to be in flagrant violation of the Copenhagen criteria;
 2. Is concerned about the climate of growing intolerance towards religious minorities in Turkey, which goes hand in hand with the on-going Islamisation of the country;
 3. Calls on the Commission at long last to make protecting religious minorities in Turkey a priority;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Turkish Government.