

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

14 May 2001

7/2001

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

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and Jan Marinus Wiersma

on national missile defence

Expiry date: 14 August 2001

*The European Parliament,*

- acknowledges the fact that the general character of conflict and war has changed, and that in the current security context the emphasis of arms control has shifted to the non-proliferation of weapons as agreed at the NPT-2000 review,
- is convinced that mutual assured destruction should be replaced by a less threatening model,
- acknowledges the dangers of unlimited proliferation of the technology of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles,
- regards the ABM Treaty as a cornerstone of the US-Russia military balance, on which any unilateral infringement would have a destabilising effect.

The European Parliament opposes an NMD which:

- A. would violate the ABM Treaty and risk provoking a new arms race,
- B. would also risk causing other nuclear powers to react by increasing the size and power of their arsenals.

The European Parliament therefore:

1. Urges the Member States to start a thorough (public) debate about this issue, starting with an impact assessment of NMD upon each country's security interests;
2. Calls on the Member States to initiate a policy of persuasive diplomacy, negotiations and economic incentives, and if necessary sanctions, towards 'states of concern';
3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Council of Ministers.