

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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26 March 2003

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Arlene McCarthy, Janelly Fourtou, Toine Manders, Mercedes Echerer and  
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on the fight against piracy and counterfeiting in the enlarged EU

Expiry date: 26 June 2003

**5/2003**

**Declaration on the fight against piracy and counterfeiting in the enlarged EU**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas piracy and counterfeiting have reached alarming levels in the EU and epidemic proportions in accession countries,
- B. recalling Commission statistics showing an increase of 900% in pirate goods intercepted by EU Customs from 1998 to 2001,
- C. whereas counterfeiting and piracy lead to an average loss of 17 000 jobs per annum in the EU and millions in lost tax revenue for governments,
- D. concerned that consumers are misled by counterfeit goods which can pose serious health and safety risks,
- E. concerned that the organised crime networks behind the pirate trade use profits from piracy and counterfeiting to finance drug trafficking and terrorism,
- 1. Calls on the Council and the Commission
  - to ensure that current and forthcoming legislation provides strong, harmonised civil sanctions for any intellectual property infringement and tough criminal penalties for commercial scale counterfeiting,
  - to promote better cross-border cooperation between law enforcement authorities in the Member States in addition to strengthening the role of Europol in combating counterfeiting and piracy,
  - to raise consumer awareness that piracy and counterfeiting are not victimless crimes;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Council, the Commission, the Member States and the EU accession countries.