

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Johan Van Hecke, Maria Martens, Margrietus van den Berg and Luisa Morgantini

on the need to establish more and fairer trade relations with Africa

Lapse date: 23.8.2005

**Written declaration on the need to establish more and fairer trade relations with Africa**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Doha Development Agenda and the current WTO negotiations,
  - having regard to the report 'Our Common Interest' by the Commission for Africa,
  - having regard to the Commission Communication on the contribution of the European Union to speeding up progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, with a special focus on Africa (COM(2005) 132),
  - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Africa faces enormous challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,
- B. whereas Africa's share of world trade is still less than 3%,
- C. whereas establishing more and fairer trade relations with Africa is vital to ensure sustainable growth and poverty reduction,
1. Welcomes the Commission's renewed commitment to Africa's development;
  2. Urges the Commission to turn this commitment into concrete action by abolishing all trade distorting agricultural export subsidies, in order to allow Africa to better develop its full trade potential;
  3. Stresses the need to promote African regional free trade agreements and to invest more in technical assistance to enhance Africa's capacity to trade in a diverse range of products and services;
  4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.