

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Manolis Mavrommatis, Vasco Graça Moura and José Silva Peneda

on FIFA's decisions regarding EU Member States

Lapse date: 18.1.2007

Written declaration on FIFA's decisions regarding EU Member States

The European Parliament,

- having regard to FIFA's Code of Conduct,
- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. having regard to FIFA's threat to exclude from all international events Europe's champion Greece, Italy and Portugal accusing them of acting against its Code of Conduct,
- B. whereas the legal pre-eminence of FIFA's Code of Conduct over the national laws of the 25 Member States and EC law is unacceptable,
- C. whereas EU Member States seem not to be able to supervise FIFA's decisions and acts,
- D. having regard to the financial damage caused to football clubs which conclude agreements with sponsors and television networks and are subjected to substantial financial losses by the austere acts of FIFA,
- E. whereas the arbitrary decisions and acts of FIFA are contrary to EU law,
- 1. Calls on the Commission to propose and set measures and strict rules which will protect Member States from FIFA's arbitrary decisions while acknowledging the pre-eminence of EU law over FIFA's Code of Conduct;
- 2. Calls on the Commission, while taking due account of the specific nature of sport, to impose EU law in respect of every agreement concluded by FIFA and football clubs, thereby protecting trade and the labour market within the EU in respect of the most popular sport worldwide,
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and FIFA.