

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Gianni Pittella, Lapo Pistelli, Luciana Sbarbati, Lilli Gruber and Claudio Fava

on sport and violence

Lapse date: 14.5.2007

Written declaration on sport and violence

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas violent clashes between organised groups of supporters and police in Catania on 3 February 2007 resulted in the killing of police inspector Filippo Raciti,
- B. whereas violence of this kind is a frequent and widespread occurrence in many EU Member States,
- C. having regard to the recommendations published in 2006 made following the independent review of European sport launched by the United Kingdom, which held the EU Presidency at the time,
 1. Firmly condemns all acts of violence and organised hooliganism and strongly reaffirms the social and cultural role played by football and sport in general in fostering social inclusion, solidarity, non-discrimination and cultural growth;
 2. Urges the Commission and Council to lay down, in close cooperation with European football associations and UEFA, joint measures for the prevention and punishment of acts of hooliganism and violence in sport, inter alia through closer judicial and police cooperation, and to promote the exchange of good practice among law enforcement agencies, national and local authorities and sports clubs with a view to ensuring public safety during sporting events;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the UEFA President and the informal group on sport.