

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Nils Lundgren and H el ene Goudin

on a ban on phosphates in laundry detergents

Lapse date: 16.4.2008

**0006/2008**

**Written declaration on a ban on phosphates in laundry detergents**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No. 648/2004,
  - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas phosphates are used in laundry detergents and are a significant source of eutrophication of the sea, lakes and waterways within the EU,
- B. whereas this is a cross-border environmental problem within the EU and must therefore be dealt with at EU level; whereas several Member States have already introduced national bans on phosphates, which have produced positive results for their waters which are shielded from the outside world; whereas, however, in the case of waters shared with Member States which have not introduced a ban, this serious source of environmental pollution persists,
- C. whereas several Member States have not developed treatment plants in accordance with the EU directive on water policy and have therefore not reduced phosphate discharges in this way; whereas a ban on phosphates in laundry detergents may reduce such discharges by up to 20 per cent,
- D. whereas alternative substitutes have proved to differ from phosphates in very few respects, in addition to which they are non-toxic substances manufactured by a process producing less toxic by-products,
1. Calls on the Presidency to consider the question of introducing a ban on phosphates in laundry detergents, applicable to all Member States of the European Union;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the Council.