

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

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on emergency cooperation in recovering missing children

Lapse date: 24.7.2008

0036/2008

Written declaration on emergency cooperation in recovering missing children

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the abduction of a child is amongst the most inhumane of crimes,
 - B. whereas the commission of such crimes is increasing in Europe and may involve transporting victims across state borders,
 - C. whereas the prospects of saving the life of an abducted child decrease as time passes,
 - D. whereas there is no Europe-wide alert system for child disappearances nor any local or national systems throughout much of the European Union,
1. Calls on Member States to introduce a missing child alert system, the activation of which would require the immediate forwarding to the relevant news media, border authorities and customs and law enforcement agencies of details of:
 - the missing child, with a photograph if available
 - information relevant to the disappearance and/or the suspected abductor(s)
 - a telephone number to call with information (116 000 where operational);
 2. Calls on the Member States to reach cooperation agreements with all bordering states to ensure the capacity to raise an alert rapidly across any relevant territories;
 3. Calls for the development of a common organisation to provide assistance and training to national bodies;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the Council.