

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Philip Claeys, Frank Vanhecke and Koenraad Dillen

on the introduction of a ban on the wearing of religious symbols in buildings of EU institutions

Lapse date: 24.7.2008

0037/2008

Written declaration on the introduction of a ban on the wearing of religious symbols in buildings of EU institutions

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the separation of church and state in Europe is a fundamental *acquis*,
- B. whereas this *acquis* is being placed under increasing pressure by the rise of Islamic fundamentalism,
- C. whereas the Muslim headscarf is also a symbol of the oppression of women,
- D. whereas many women are forced by social pressure to wear a headscarf,
- E. whereas the staff of public services should present a neutral appearance, most of all (but not exclusively) in dealings with the public,
- 1. Urges the institutions and the financial, advisory, interinstitutional and decentralised bodies of the European Union to introduce a ban in all their buildings on the wearing of visible religious symbols, to apply to all staff members and employees of service providers;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the other EU institutions and the financial, advisory, interinstitutional and decentralised bodies of the European Union.