

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

7.5.2008

0044/2008

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Marianne Mikko, Christopher Beazley, Inese Vaidere, Zita Gurmai and
Alexander Alvaro

on the proclamation of 23 August as European Day of Remembrance for
Victims of Stalinism and Nazism

Lapse date: 9.9.2008

Written declaration on the proclamation of 23 August as European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the UN Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity,
 - having regard to the following articles of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: Article 1: the obligation to respect human rights, Article 2: the right to life, Article 3: prohibition of torture, and Article 4: prohibition of slavery and forced labour,
 - having regard to Resolution 1481 (2006) of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly on condemnation of crimes of communist regimes,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 23 August 1939 between the Soviet Union and Germany divided Europe into two spheres of interest by means of secret additional protocols,
- B. whereas the mass deportations, murders and enslavements committed in the context of the acts of aggression by Stalinism and Nazism fall into the category of war crimes and crimes against humanity,
- C. whereas, under international law, statutory limitations do not apply to war crimes and crimes against humanity,
- D. whereas the influence and significance of the Soviet order and occupation on/for citizens of the post-Communist States are little known in Europe,
- E. whereas the programme 'Europe for Citizens' established by Decision No 1904/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council instituted the action 'Active European Remembrance', intended to prevent any repetition of the crimes of Nazism and Stalinism,
1. Proposes that 23 August be proclaimed European Day of Remembrance for Victims of the Crimes of Stalinism and Nazism, in order to preserve the memory of the victims of mass deportations and exterminations, at the same time rooting democracy more firmly and reinforcing peace and stability in our continent;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the parliaments of the Member States.