

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

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on equal recognition of civil partnerships

Lapse date: 15.1.2009

0076/2008

Written declaration on equal recognition of civil partnerships

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the EU Citizens Directive,
 - having regard to Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Union is committed to its citizens' freedom of movement,
 - B. whereas with the introduction or passage of legislation regarding same-sex partnerships or marriages in many Member States, it is clear that a Europe-wide consensus is emerging on the issue of same-sex partnerships,
 - C. whereas the rights granted by such legislation vary from State to State, leading to some Member States with such legislation failing to recognise the same-sex partnerships of other Member States,
 - D. whereas this situation has caused hardship for couples who have exercised their freedom of movement rights,
 - E. whereas a number of Member States have chosen not to make provision for same-sex partnerships, and appreciating that the choice whether to do so remains the preserve of their national governments,
 - F. noting the conclusions of the recent report of the Agency for Fundamental Rights on Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation in the EU Member States,
1. Calls upon those Member States with existing same-sex partnership legislation to recognise the arrangements of other Member States that have similar provisions;
 2. Calls upon the Commission to draw up guidelines for mutual recognition between Member States with existing legislation;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.