

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

20.10.2008

0089/2008

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Bogusław Rogalski

on discrimination on grounds of origin

Lapse date: 5.2.2009

0089/2008

Written declaration on discrimination on grounds of origin

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 12 of the EC Treaty and Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
 - having regard to Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. having regard to the Commission opinion highlighting the use of discriminatory practices by German youth welfare offices (Jugendämter),
- B. having regard to the widespread violation of human rights by Jugendamt officials, involving the placing of restrictions on or banning of contact between children and their foreign parents, following those parents' divorce from their German spouses, and support for parental abduction,
- C. whereas some 250 complaints against youth welfare offices have been submitted to the Committee on Petitions,
1. Condemns Jugendamt practices giving rise to discrimination on grounds of origin;
 2. Condemns the bans and restrictions placed on communication in the mother tongue of a foreign parent between that parent and his or her children;
 3. Takes the view that an upbringing based on Jugendamt rules results in xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination on grounds of race and nationality;
 4. Takes the view that a multilingual and multicultural upbringing has an exclusively positive impact on a child's development and is in keeping with the guiding principles of the European Union;
 5. Calls on the Commission to take firm action in this matter, with a view to preventing any further discrimination against foreign parents;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the German Government and to the Commission and Council.