

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Anna Záborská, Martin Kastler, Jean Louis Cottigny, Patrizia Toia and
Konrad Szymański

on the protection of a work-free Sunday as an essential pillar of the European
Social Model and a part of the European cultural heritage

Lapse date: 7.5.2009

0009/2009

Written declaration on the protection of a work-free Sunday as an essential pillar of the European Social Model and a part of the European cultural heritage

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 137 of the TEU,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas a work-free Sunday is an essential pillar of the European Social Model and a part of the European cultural heritage,
 - B. whereas a EUROFOUND survey shows that the likelihood of sickness and absenteeism in establishments that work on Saturdays and Sundays is 1.3 times greater compared with establishments that do not require staff to work at the weekend,
 - C. whereas, according to EU law, Sunday is the weekly rest day for children and adolescents,
 - D. whereas the European institutions, bodies and agencies have not worked on Sundays since their creation and do not intend to do so in the future, despite the diversity of religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds of EU officials and decision-makers,
1. Calls on the Member States and the EU institutions to protect Sunday, as a weekly rest day, in forthcoming national and EU working-time legislation in order to enhance the protection of workers' health and the reconciliation of work and family life;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the parliamentary committees for social affairs of the national parliaments.