

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

8.10.2008

B6-0547/2008

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 113 of the Rules of Procedure

by Philip Claeys, Frank Vanhecke and Koenraad Dillen

on the attitude of African States to the Durban Review Conference

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Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the attitude of African States to the Durban Review Conference

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Preliminary Document of the African Regional Conference preparatory to the Durban Review Conference, drawn up in Abuja on 26 August 2008,
 - having regard to Rule 113 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the document does not mention the crimes against humanity committed in Darfur and the ethnic violence between Africans in such countries as Kenya and South Africa,
 - B. whereas Paragraph 13 of the text calls on UN Member States to 'avoid inflexibly clinging to free speech',
 - C. whereas freedom of expression is one of the most essential fundamental rights in Europe and is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - D. whereas the text particularly stresses so-called Islamophobia, thus establishing a hierarchy among religions,
 - E. whereas the slave trade should be condemned (irrespective of whether it is practised by Europeans, Americans or Africans), including the slave trade which still exists in such countries as Sudan, Benin, Togo, Nigeria and Gabon,
1. Calls on the European Union Member States to reject the text of the Preliminary Document and to call on African States to work towards good governance, self-reliance and a sense of responsibility and to make vigorous efforts to tackle corruption and nepotism;
 2. Calls on Member States to resolutely and unambiguously defend freedom of expression.