

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

5 December 2000

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Charles TANNOCK, Chris DAVIES, Jean LAMBERT, Torben LUND
and Theresa VILLIERS

on the protection of dolphins and porpoises

Expiry date: 05.03.2001

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- aware that, as a result of incidental by-catches, many thousands of dolphins and porpoises are being killed in European waters by some fishing fleets,
 - whereas EU legislation lays down that by-catches of cetaceans must be monitored and taken into account,
 - concerned that, despite clear evidence of the incidence of by-catches, particularly in pelagic-trawl and gill-net fisheries, there has been very little action at either national or EU level substantially to reduce the killing of cetaceans by fishing fleets,
 - noting that by-catches of some species greatly exceeds levels that could be sustained by the populations,
 - noting that the parties to ASCOBANS have called on the Commission to include action to reduce the annual death toll in its current review of the common fisheries policy;
1. Calls upon the national governments of the Member States and upon the European Commission to take immediate action to monitor and manage fisheries effectively so as to prevent dolphin and porpoise deaths and to press for the institutional and policy changes required to achieve these goals during the current review of the EU common fisheries policy.
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Council of Ministers and to the European Commission.