

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2004

17 April 2002

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Christopher Heaton-Harris

on the independence of the media

Lapse date: 17 July 2002

07/2002

Declaration on the independence of the media

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas independence of the media is a vital component of a democracy,
 - B. whereas journalists have an obligation to adhere to a certain set of journalistic standards and to uphold their side of media independence,
 - C. whereas most parliaments have an existing code of conduct for journalists,
1. Calls on the European Union to introduce the following Code of Conduct for accredited journalists:
 - Accredited journalists should conduct themselves in a manner befitting the Parliament of the European Union.
 - Accredited journalists should observe agreed parliamentary regulations about areas that are out of bounds, and other agreed conventions. Details of these will be provided on accreditation.
 - Accredited journalists should treat parliamentary staff with due courtesy and consideration.
 - Accredited journalists should not act as lobbyists, paid or unpaid, for any individual or organisation that might seek to influence the political process or benefit from inside knowledge of the political process. Accredited journalists should not approach MEPs, Commissioners, civil servants, political party officials or parliamentary staff to seek information for such individuals or organisations or to represent their views.
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Council and the Commission.