EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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23 September 2002 14/2002

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Marco Pannella, Paulo Casaca, Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit, Chris Davies and Charles Tannock

on the violation of the fundamental rights of the people of Vietnam and the release of religious leaders

Lapse date: 23 December 2002

14/2002

Declaration on the violation of the fundamental rights of the people of Vietnam and the release of religious leaders

The European Parliament,

A.   whereas the 75th session of the UN Human Rights Committee and the European Parliament have on a number of occasions denounced violations of the fundamental rights of the people of Vietnam,

B.   whereas Thich Quang Do's appeal for democracy in Vietnam has been signed by a number of leading figures and by more than 300 000 Vietnamese,

C.   whereas the appeal by 21 intellectuals and former members of the Communist Party calls on the Government to respect the Constitution and asks the international community to ensure that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Vietnam is a party, is observed,

D.   whereas the issue of respect by the Vietnamese authorities for democratic principles, fundamental rights and the principle of legality laid down by the EU-Vietnam cooperation agreement cannot be regarded as an internal one to Vietnam but directly concerns the Union and its citizens,

Calls on the Commission and Council:

1.   to submit a report to Parliament before the end of 2002 on new steps taken in this connection;

2.   to request the Vietnamese Government to act on the recommendations of the 75th session of the UN Human Rights Committee and in particular to release all prisoners of conscience, including the Most Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, Patriarch of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam, the Venerable Thich Quang Do and Father Nguyen Van Ly;

3.   to inform the Vietnamese authorities that the EU will suspend the cooperation agreement by the end of 2002 if they fail to act on these requests.

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