

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Kathalijne Buitenweg, Andrew Duff, Christopher Heaton-Harris,
Michiel van Hulten and Helle Thorning-Schmidt

on the right of the European Parliament to determine the location of its seat

Expiry date: 2 September 2003

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Declaration on the right of the European Parliament to determine the location of its seat

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, according to the Treaty, Parliament has its official seat in Strasbourg and its general secretariat in Luxembourg,
- B. whereas most of its work takes place in Brussels, where its main institutional interlocutors, the Commission and Council, are also based, along with the media,
- C. whereas the cost to Parliament alone of maintaining three places of work has been estimated at 169 million euro per year, rising to 203 million euro per year after enlargement,
- D. whereas the present arrangement has given rise to health and safety concerns,
- E. whereas Parliament respects the existing Treaty provisions, but considers that these must be amended in the enlarged Union for the sake of efficiency and legitimacy,
- F. whereas the role of Strasbourg as a symbol of post-war reconciliation is still valued, and mindful that Strasbourg's potential can be further developed in the European sphere,
- 1. Calls on the Convention on the Future of Europe and on all current and future EU governments to give the European Parliament the right to determine the location of its seat;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the Convention on the Future of Europe.