

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

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6 June 2003

10/2003

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Richard Corbett

having regard to Article 289 of the EC Treaty and Article 189 of the EAEC Treaty

Expiry date: 6 September 2003

PE 333.582  
Or. en

*The European Parliament,*

- A. whereas the location of 12 European Parliament sessions in Strasbourg is, despite the tremendous hospitality of Strasbourg, increasingly problematic for Parliament, other institutions, embassies, NGOs and newspapers who all incur cost and inconvenience in shifting back and forth between Brussels and Strasbourg every month,
  - B. whereas Parliament has all the facilities it needs in Brussels, where it works three weeks out of four; whereas a second building, used less than 50 days per year, in Strasbourg, is therefore a considerable waste and is perceived as such by public opinion,
  - C. whereas the Commission and the Council, with which Parliament interacts on a day-by-day basis, are also based in Brussels,
  - D. whereas the Nice European Council, in the middle of the night, decided to locate future European Council meetings in Brussels, allegedly to compensate Belgium in the wider package of measures agreed,
  - E. whereas this could have been more easily achieved by attributing all the Parliament sittings to Brussels, which would not need the construction of any new buildings,
  - F. whereas, in exchange, the European Council could meet in Strasbourg, which would confer just as much prestige and other benefits on Strasbourg where the Parliament building can be adapted and already contains the necessary press and security facilities,
  - G. whereas the holding of European Council meetings away from Brussels is appropriate, as it should remain distant from the day-to-day procedures of the Union,
1. Calls for the sessions of the European Parliament to be held in Brussels and the meetings of the European Council in Strasbourg;
  2. Instruct its President to forward this declaration to the other EU institutions, the Member States and the Convention on the Future of Europe.