

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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22 September 2003

17/2003

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Struan Stevenson, Bob van den Bos, Nelly Maes,  
Mihail Papayannakis and Phillip Whitehead

on a ban on cat and dog fur

Expiry date: 22 December 2003

- having regard to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure,
  - whereas there is strong evidence that over two million cats and dogs are killed each year in Asia solely for their fur and skins and much of this is being directed to EU countries,
  - whereas intentional fraudulent labelling or dyeing of these items leaves consumers and legitimate retailers the victims of massive consumer fraud,
  - whereas forensic evidence indicates that these items have been found on sale in France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Austria, The Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark,
  - whereas nine EU Ministers of Agriculture have called for an EU-wide ban,
  - whereas EU authorities have stated that a balanced ban would not trigger a WTO problem,
  - whereas porous borders make it impossible for individual countries to stem this consumer fraud,
  - whereas waiting for the Commission to harmonise EU individual country laws sometime in the distant future will leave EU citizens continuing victims of this fraud,
1. Requests the European Commission immediately to draft a regulation under internal market powers to ban the import, export, sales and production of cat and dog furs and skins to restore European Union consumer and retailer confidence and end this trade.