

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by André Brie, Willi Görlach, Joost Lagendijk and Philippe Morillon

on the need to improve the human rights situation of the Kurdish population of Syria

Expiry date: 22 December 2003

- A. having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948,
 - B. having regard to the declaration by the presidency on behalf of the European Union on human rights in Syria (11416/02) released on 8 August 2002,
 - C. having regard to its resolution on the situation with regard to democratic rights in Syria, and the case of Riad Turk in particular (P5_TA(2002)0330), adopted on 13.06.2002,
 - D. having regard to the fact that the Kurdish population of Syria (who after all account for 13% of the total population) have been continuously subjected to human rights abuses since the 'special census' of 1962 after which they were stripped of Syrian nationality,
- 1. Calls on the Syrian government:
 - to reinstate Kurds as Syrian citizens with all associated rights, with retroactive effect;
 - to recognise all the political and cultural rights of the Kurdish minority, and to allow them access to all educational establishments and courses of study;
 - 2. Calls on the Council and the Commission:
 - to express their concern about the situation of the Kurdish minority and to urge the Syrian government to urgently proceed with the necessary reforms;
 - to emphasise towards Syria the importance of the respect for human rights mutually accepted in the Barcelona Declaration;
 - to monitor closely the situation of the Kurdish minority, in particular in the context of the future Association Agreement.