

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

29 October 2003

25/2003

WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Marie Anne Isler Béguin, Inger Schörling, Paul Lannoye,
Gérard Onesta and Yves Piétrasanta

on restoration of rights and justice in the case of the Bhopal disaster in
India

Expiry date: 29 January 2004

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. aware of the enduring human and environmental consequences of the industrial disaster at the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal in India, where 40 tonnes of toxic gas led to 20 000 deaths and poisoned half a million people,
- B. having been informed of Union Carbide's dubious practices during the construction and operation of the Bhopal factory, which were harmful to environmental safety and protection,
- C. concerned that the effects of this disaster are still being felt, with 120 000 people still suffering from serious illnesses and about ten people dying every month,
- D. scandalised by the strategy of legal subterfuge adopted by those responsible, notably by the industrial merger with the Dow Chemical Company in 2001,
- 1. Calls on the Commission to:
 - marshal the legal and political means to provide health and medical assistance for the local population;
 - work with the Member States in making substantial efforts to achieve the restoration of rights and compensation due to the victims, investigating the causes of the disaster and the environmental liabilities of Union Carbide's worldwide activities;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the Indian authorities and the Dow Chemical Company.