

# EUROPEAN-PARLIAMENT

*1999*



*2004*

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26. November 2003

29/2003

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Chris Davies, Johanna Boogerd-Quaak, Marco Cappato,  
Anna Karamanou and Michiel van Hulten

on the Aids epidemic and Vatican advice on condoms

Expiry date: 26 February 2004

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Aids has killed 20 million people, a further 42 million are infected with the HIV virus, and 6,000 people between the age of 15 and 24 catch the virus every day,
- B. whereas the Catholic church is telling people in the developing world that condoms do not provide protection because the virus can allegedly pass through the latex rubber walls of a condom,
- C. whereas the World Health Organisation flatly contradicts this claim, saying that condoms do provide effective protection, and that instances of failure are due almost entirely to incorrect use of condoms,
- 1. Calls on the Commission and the Member State governments to make representations to the Vatican that, notwithstanding the valued humanitarian work undertaken by the Catholic church in many parts of the world, the promotion of untruths in order to support a moral agenda is unacceptable, undermines efforts to combat the spread of Aids, and risks condemning millions more people to premature death;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and Council.