

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

*1999*



*2004*

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11 February 2004

10/2004

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mario Borghezio

on compensation for the victims of Communism in Istria, Dalmazia and Venezia-Giulia

Expiry date: 6 May 2004

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas condemnation of the crimes committed by Communism and material and non-material compensation for the victims of such crimes should be a fundamental principle of the European Union's action,
- B. whereas 'Remembrance Day' has been celebrated in Italy on 10 February 2004 for the past two years in memory of the thousands of innocent people who died in the 'foibe' massacres perpetrated by Tito's Communist militia and of the psychological and physical suffering inflicted on exiles from Istria, Dalmazia and Venezia-Giulia at the end of the Second World War,
- C. whereas the current Slovene legislation provides for the restitution of property confiscated by the Yugoslav Communist regime between 1945 and 1956 solely to ex-Yugoslav and Slovene nationals, thereby discriminating against expropriated Istrians,
- D. whereas similar legislation applies in Croatia,
- 1. Calls on the Commission and the Council:
  - to ask Slovenia to respect the principles laid down in the European Convention on Human Rights, in particular the right to property and non-discrimination, by removing from its legislation on the restitution of property to expropriated citizens the discriminatory consequences of loss of nationality;
  - with a view to the Council's future decision to open accession negotiations with Croatia, to raise the painful issue of the expropriation suffered by Italian and European citizens forced to abandon their land, and call for the relevant discriminatory Croatian laws to be amended;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Commission and the Council.