

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2004

20 February 2004

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

by Gary Titley, Richard Corbett, Martin Schultz and Olivier Duhamel

on the 60th anniversary of the Normandy landings

Expiry date: 6 May 2004

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. noting that 6 June 2004 will mark the 60th anniversary of the allied landings in Normandy during the Second World War,
 - B. recognising the huge sacrifice made by soldiers at that time and throughout the whole war,
 - C. recognising the significance of the D-Day landings as the beginning of the allied forces' liberating Europe from fascism and dictatorship, and therefore an important date in the history of all EU Member States, paving the way to the establishment of a peaceful, democratic and cooperative Europe,
 - D. recognising that this year will mark the last major anniversary of the landings for many veterans,
1. Is pleased that governments in the Member States have begun preparations to ensure that this extremely important and historic event is commemorated appropriately on its 60th anniversary next year;
 2. Welcomes the invitation issued to the German Chancellor, symbolising the reconciliation of post-war Europe and underlining that the whole of Europe remembers D-Day to have been a major step towards the liberation of our continent;
 3. Calls on the President of the European Parliament to forward this declaration to the Heads of Government of the European Union.