

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

24 September 2004

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Bronislaw Geremek, Valdis Dombrovskis, Toomas Hendrik Ilves and
Vytautas Landsbergis

on the anniversary of 17 September 1939

Lapse date: 24 December 2004

Written declaration on the anniversary of 17 September 1939

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas 65 years ago, on 17 September 1939, the Red Army invaded Poland. Following close on the heels of the invasion of Poland by Germany, this marked the next Soviet step in the implementation of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, which was intended to divide Europe up between two totalitarian regimes, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. Poland was dealt a mortal blow. Soon Finland was attacked, and, following Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania then also lost their independence,
- B. whereas the ignominious plot of the two great powers resulted in acts of violence against weaker nations and the loss of millions of lives, burnt in the flames of World War II,
 1. Calls on the institutions of the EU and its Member States to preserve a place for these tragic facts in Europe's collective memory;
 2. Declares that a permanent European bond founded on reconciliation among nations and respect for freedom can only be based on the truth of what occurred in the history of Europe in the twentieth century;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council, and the governments of the Member States.