

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Philip Claeys, Koenraad Dillen and Frank Vanhecke

on the holding of referenda on Turkey's possible accession to the European Union

Lapse date: 27.1.2005

45/2004

Written declaration on the holding of referenda on Turkey's possible accession to the European Union

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas several opinion polls indicate that a majority of European citizens are opposed to Turkey's possible accession to the European Union,
- B. whereas a number of Member States plan to hold referenda on the European Constitutional Treaty,
- C. whereas there are fears that those national referenda could become 'clouded' by the Turkish issue, and it is better that the two matters be kept separate,
- D. whereas the repercussions of Turkish membership of the EU are even more far-reaching than the adoption of a common European Constitution,
- E. whereas referenda are the means par excellence of strengthening the democratic legitimacy of the European Union,
 1. Urges that the European Union take account of the opinion of its citizens;
 2. Calls on the European Council to urge the national governments that a separate referendum be held in the Member States on Turkey's possible accession to the EU;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the European Council.