

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański

on improved Internet access

Lapse date: 13.3.2005

Written declaration on improved Internet access

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. having regard to the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy, with its commitment to boosting the competitiveness of the European Union in the sphere of new information technologies, and to making full use of them in the economy, including in e-commerce and services,
- B. having regard to the increasing gap between the EU and the USA in the sphere of access to new technologies,
- C. having regard to the development of the information community, expansion of interpersonal communication and free access to information sources,
- D. having regard to the creation of equal opportunity of access to new technologies, irrespective of location and financial situation,
- E. having regard to the fight against xenophobia and stereotyping,
- F. having regard to the need for greater transparency in the activities of European Institutions and supervision by citizens,
- 1. Stresses that Internet services in the European Union are subject to full-rate VAT;
- 2. Observes that the application of full-rate VAT is a result of the existing legislation;
- 3. Believes that the above facts make it extremely difficult to develop new technologies in the European Union and discriminate against many citizens by making Internet access dependent on their financial situation;
- 4. Considers it essential for the Commission to take steps to change existing legislation in order to introduce a zero-rate VAT;
- 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and Commission.