

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

---

13.12.2004

0057/2004

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Koenraad Dillen, Frank Vanhecke, Philip Claeys and Jean-Claude Martinez  
on the liberalisation of port services

Lapse date: 13.3.2005

**0057/2004**

**Written declaration on the liberalisation of port services**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in October 2004 former European Commissioner Loyola de Palacio submitted a revised proposal on the liberalisation of port services,
- B. whereas a majority within the European Parliament rejected the liberalisation of port services in November 2003,
- C. whereas in the new proposal too, self-handling by ships' crews is permitted,
- D. whereas this would detract from safety and harmonious labour relations in ports,
- E. whereas the proposal for a directive would reduce the autonomy and power of port authorities,
- F. whereas the new proposal does not provide for any legal certainty at all and is even more complex and unclear than the previous proposal,
- 1. Draws the Commission's attention to the fact that the European port industry is among the most efficient in the world;
- 2. Urges the Commission to respect the autonomy of European ports;
- 3. Urges the Commission, in particular, to respect the explicitly expressed will of the majority of the European Parliament and definitively shelve its plans for the introduction of self-handling and far-reaching liberalisation of port services;
- 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.