

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Margrietus van den Berg, Marianne Thyssen, Joost Lagendijk and Toine Manders

on the 'Le Joola'

Lapse date: 16.3.2005

**Written declaration on the 'Le Joola'**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the ferry the 'Le Joola' sank off the coast of Senegal/Gambia on the night of 26/27 September 2002, with the loss of 1 863 lives,
- B. whereas, despite repeated calls by Senegalese and European relatives to the Senegalese and European authorities, the ferry and the bodies of the majority of the unidentified victims have yet to be recovered,
- C. whereas it is a mark of respect for human dignity, which is enshrined as a European value in Article I–2 of the new European Constitution, that the victims be given a final resting place,
- D. whereas Senegal, at the relatives' request, is willing to work together with the EU to salvage the vessel, in view of the EU's earlier sympathy and cooperation in the aftermath of the disaster and given the lack of additional funds and facilities,
- E. whereas the Netherlands Foreign Minister, Bernard Bot, has pledged support for European initiatives aimed at resolving this question if at all possible,
- F. whereas European salvage companies are willing and able to provide technical assistance and expertise,
- 1. Calls on the European Commission to propose new initiatives for Senegalese-European cooperation to salvage the 'Le Joola';
- 2. 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.