

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Frank Vanhecke, Philip Claeys and Koenraad Dillen

on Commissioner Louis Michel's intention to use resources earmarked for development cooperation for military purposes

Lapse date: 11.7.2005

19/2005

Written declaration on Commissioner Louis Michel's intention to use resources earmarked for development cooperation for military purposes

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas Louis Michel, the Commissioner responsible for development cooperation, launched the idea in March 2005 of using EU development aid for training armed forces in Africa,
 - B. whereas several specialised non-governmental organisations state that integrating military assistance into development aid will lead to funds intended for health and education projects being diverted into the purchase of arms,
 - C. whereas providing funds for armed services certainly does not meet the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's policy criteria for combating poverty,
 - D. whereas Louis Michel, as Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, intervened in order to ensure the issuing of licences for certain controversial arms exports by the Walloon factory FN,
 - E. whereas Louis Michel shifted the focus of Belgian development cooperation to Africa, and whereas the Walloon arms industry has fully reaped the benefits of this shift,
1. Calls on the Commission to see to it that Louis Michel's line of thinking is not pursued;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the candidate countries.