

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

27.4.2005

23/2005

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Robert Evans, Richard Falbr, Helmut Kuhne, Thomas Mann and Klaus-Heiner Lehne

on the organisation of graduate teacher unions in the United States

Lapse date: 27.7.2005

23/2005

Written declaration on the organisation of graduate teacher unions in the United States

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. noting that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that 'Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests' (Article 23(4)),
- B. concerned that, under President Bush, the National Labor Relations Board stripped graduate teachers of the right to organise collectively, denying US labour law protection to over 40 000 teachers,
- C. aware that graduate teachers at Yale and Columbia Universities are seeking to gain voluntary recognition from their universities after independent observers certified that they represent a majority of graduate teachers,
- D. recognising that academic unions have helped to protect jobs and made a positive contribution to preserving academic freedom and intellectual standards,
- 1. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ask the Bush administration to reverse this decision;
- 2. Urges the Member States to affirm solidarity with the Graduate Employees and Students Organization (GESO) at Yale, and with Graduate Student Employees United (GSEU) at Columbia in their struggle for union recognition;
- 3. Calls on Yale University President, Richard Levin, and Columbia University President, Lee Bollinger, to recognise GESO and GSEU and immediately commence contract negotiations;
- 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the United States Government.