

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

11.5.2005

27/2005

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Frank Vanhecke, Philip Claeys and Koenraad Dillen

on equal access to the Flemish public broadcasting media for all political parties

Lapse date: 11.8.2005

27/2005

Written declaration on equal access to the Flemish public broadcasting media for all political parties

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas a democracy can only function properly if all political parties have access to public broadcasting channels in the same way and if voters then make choices on the basis of objective information,
- B. whereas it has emerged both from official memoranda drawn up by the Flemish public-service broadcaster VRT in 2001 and 2005 and from academic studies that both Vlaams Belang ['Flemish Interest'] - the largest political party in Flanders - and its representatives suffer discrimination by this broadcaster,
 1. Condemns the discriminatory policy of the Flemish public-service broadcaster towards Vlaams Belang and notes that this policy constitutes a violation of the freedom of expression of Vlaams Belang and of the right of the Flemish people to information, as guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Flemish Government and the Flemish Parliament.