

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by David Martin, Neil Parish, Peter Skinner, Terence Wynn and Robert Evans

on rising international concern over the farming of bear bile in China

Lapse date: 26.12.2005

**Written declaration on rising international concern over the farming of bear bile in China**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. acknowledging that 7002 Asiatic Black Bears (Moon Bears) are currently 'milked' for their bile in China; whereas these bears are endangered, listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES),
- B. whereas new 'humane' bile extraction methods used continue to cause agonising suffering and the death of bears on Chinese farms, with at least one new method directly contravening new regulations,
- C. welcoming the acknowledgement by eminent Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners of the existence of at least 54 herbal alternatives to bear bile, together with a synthetic version,
- D. welcoming the action taken by the Chinese Government since 2000 in closing over 40 bear farms and confiscating 188 bears into the care of the Animals Asia Foundation (AAF),
- E. noting serious concern, internationally and within the Chinese media, public and Government, at the fact that such a cruel and uncivilised practice exists,
- 1. Calls on the Chinese Government to consider this grave worldwide concern as the 2008 Beijing Olympics approach, taking a clear stance on bear farming, initiating a countrywide ban forthwith on the breeding of bears on farms and setting a time-limit for the ending of bear farming;
- 2. Requests that the Chinese Government liaise with the AAF in accelerating the closure of all bear farms through programmes benefiting bears currently held captive and farmers reliant on the industry; calls also for cooperation with the AAF in developing far-reaching education programmes to deter consumers of bear bile;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the Member States and the relevant Chinese authorities.