

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Den Dover and Kathy Sinnott

on promoting energy efficiency in buildings

Lapse date: 28.12.2005

Written declaration on promoting energy efficiency in buildings

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas there is alarm that greenhouse gas emissions rose in 2004 and that on present trends the EU will fail to meet its Kyoto commitments, likewise concern at the long-term implications of Europe's growing imported hydrocarbon energy dependence,
 - B. whereas it is noted that buildings in Europe account for more emissions than any other sector and that the EU's most cost-effective opportunities for reducing emissions arise when buildings undergo major renovations; however, the market is dysfunctional and it is a well-established fact that building owners, in spite of increased prices for energy, usually find it cheaper to pay higher energy bills rather than implement energy-saving measures; this applies especially to the aged and disabled citizens,
 - C. whereas there is particular concern that Council Directive 2002/91/EC on the Energy Performance of Buildings (which contains no specific provisions to improve the energy performance of any building) will in practice have only a minimal impact on reducing emissions unless underwritten by fiscal incentives,
1. Calls on the Council:
 - a. to give all Member States the option to apply reduced VAT rates for labour-intensive services, such as building work to improve energy efficiency;
 - b. to include in this provision alteration of buildings to meet the special requirements of the aged and those who are temporarily or permanently disabled;
 - c. to urge the Member States to provide really effective fiscal incentives for energy-saving measures in buildings;
 2. Instructs the President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.