EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Elizabeth Lynne, Elena Valenciano Martínez-Orozco, Anna Zárborská, Simon Coveney

on the need to end the connection between business travellers and the trafficking of women and children into forced prostitution

Lapse date: 24.1.2006

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Written declaration on the need to end the connection between business travellers and the trafficking of women and children into forced prostitution

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA of 22 December 2003,
- having regard to Council Resolution of 20 October 2003 on initiatives to combat trafficking in human beings, in particular women,
- having regard to Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA of 19 July 2002,
- having regard to the Committee on Development report on tourism and development (2004/2212(INI)),
- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- having regard to the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197),
- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas more than two million women, children and men are trafficked every year into forced labour and sexual exploitation,
- B. whereas a part of this trade is encouraged by business travellers who use trafficked women and children as prostitutes while in any State,
- C. whereas greater awareness amongst the business travel community, and a chance to report what they see and also to urge hotels to break all connection with forced prostitution will reduce the number of women and children being trafficked and exploited,
- 1. Stresses the need for greater awareness of the problem of human trafficking in the business community;
- 2. Urges MEPs, the Commission and the Council to individually support and become a part of the Business Travellers against Human Trafficking campaign and to promote this campaign among businesses in the areas they represent;
- 3. Urges the Commission and the Council to set in place procedures which offer this campaign to all employees as they join the institutions;
- 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.