

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

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on new information technologies and their impact on children

Lapse date: 1.3.2006

Written declaration on new information technologies and their impact on children

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas new technologies can be harmful and cause irreversible trauma, particularly to minors, and whereas they are often used without parental control,
- B. whereas one child in three is confronted by, inter alia, images of violence, both on the internet and on television, and whereas child pornography on the internet increased by 70% from 2003 to 2004,
- C. whereas public authorities, the media, teachers and parents should share responsibility for consumption of media and protection of children,
- 1. Calls on national and Community actors to coordinate the implementation of specific teaching programmes and information campaigns on the dangers of new technologies, and to ask internet access providers to supply free parental control software and website hosts to put in place automatic filtering;
- 2. Calls on the Commission to encourage the exchange among Member States of good practices on new technologies and child protection, and to press for the creation of mechanisms for notifying and lodging complaints;
- 3. Calls on the Commission to include violations of children's rights among cyber crimes to be tackled through 'internet governance', as discussed at the recent World Summit on the Information Society;
- 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Member States, the Commission and the Council.