

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Michael Cashman, Emine Bozkurt and Thijs Berman

on recent executions of gay men by the Iranian Authorities

Lapse date: 12.3.2006

**Written declaration on recent executions of gay men by the Iranian Authorities**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas recently several young gay men, at least one of them being a minor, have been executed in Iran,
- B. whereas reportedly the men had been charged with and convicted for the crime of rape; however, such charges are often said to be fabricated by the government to facilitate executions,
- C. whereas engaging in homosexual acts is punishable by death in Iran,
- D. whereas these executions are in total defiance of the European Parliament's position against the death penalty,
- E. whereas the execution of a minor is in direct contravention of Iran's obligation under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- F. whereas the development of nuclear capabilities, the situation of women's rights and human rights in general in Iran are also cause for concern,
- G. whereas EU-Iran negotiations on a Trade and Cooperation Agreement were restarted on 12 January 2005,
- 1. Calls on the European Commission to suspend the conclusion of a Trade and Cooperation Agreement until Iran guarantees it will not prosecute, condemn or execute people because they engage in, or have engaged in homosexual acts;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the Member States and the Government of Iran.