

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

---

13.2.2006

0010/2006

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Frank Vanhecke, Philip Claeys and Koenraad Dillen

on the reactions in the Islamic world to the cartoons published in the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten

Lapse date: 13.5.2006

**0010/2006**

**Written declaration on the reactions in the Islamic world to the cartoons published in the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas freedom of expression and the right to criticise religions has been a fundamental principle of every free society since the Enlightenment;
- B. whereas the separation of Church and State and the separation of powers are fundamental values of the EU,
- C. whereas the Turkish Prime Minister Mr Erdogan, in advocating limits on freedom of expression where it is used to criticise Islam, does not recognise these fundamental values,
- D. whereas the boycotting of Danish products in many Islamic countries and the violent reaction to the publication of the cartoons show that in most Muslim countries fundamental democratic values are not respected,
  1. Concludes that the Turkish Prime Minister has demonstrated that the democratic principles of the EU are not safeguarded in his country, and takes the view that his comments are grounds for breaking off the accession negotiations with Turkey;
  2. Calls on the Commission and the Council to safeguard and if necessary restore freedom of expression;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.