

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

26.4.2006

0025/2006

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Fernand Le Rachinel

on the processing and dismantling of ships no longer in service

Lapse date: 26.7.2006

0025/2006

Written declaration on the processing and dismantling of ships no longer in service

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas ships the size of the Titanic are brought on land and dismantled by workers who are often exposed to lethal toxins such as asbestos, explosive gases and other dangers, particularly falling steel plates,
- B. whereas Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Taiwan and India are the current world leaders in ship demolition and the pitiful episode involving the former aircraft carrier 'Clémenceau' merely illustrates this,
- C. whereas besides the actual dismantling of military and civilian ships at the end of their service, the main issue is finding a viable solution, as much for the economy as for the environment, to the problem of hazardous waste exports and preventing the dumping of ships at sea,
 1. Deplores the fact that there is still no solution to this issue;
 2. Points out that trading in toxic waste is prohibited under the Basel Convention of 1 February 1993 and that a ship which is to be demolished is, in all respects, considered a toxic hazard under the Convention;
 3. Calls on Member States to put together official figures on the number of ships which are to be dismantled and to consider the new measures to follow as regards the recycling and demolition of these ships, with regard to the removal of asbestos in particular;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.