

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Paul Vergès, Margie Sudre and Jean-Claude Fruteau

on the chikungunya epidemic affecting Réunion

Lapse date: 26.7.2006

**Written declaration on the chikungunya epidemic affecting Réunion**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the chikungunya epidemic, caused by a mosquito-borne virus, has already infected 30% of the inhabitants of Réunion, an outermost region of the European Union, and, directly or indirectly, has claimed the lives of 174 people,
- B. whereas there is no vaccine for this disease,
- C. whereas all areas of Réunion's economy are being adversely affected by absences from work due to illness and the general downturn in activity,
- D. whereas the epidemic is spreading to Mayotte and the Indian Ocean, and may extend to continental Europe, namely the south of France, Italy and Portugal,
- 1. Calls on the Commission and the Council to show their support for the people of Réunion and other regions affected;
- 2. Calls on the Commission to allow an exceptional mobilisation of the ERDF in the outermost regions and of the EDF in the overseas countries and territories;
- 3. Calls on the Commission to take into account the threat of new viruses transmitted by mosquitos, to include them in European research programmes and to further preventive action;
- 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.