

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jean Spautz

on the rights of the child

Lapse date: 26.7.2006

**EN**

PE 373.817

**EN**

**Written declaration on the rights of the child**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 7,
  - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular Article 24,
  - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas every year across the world some 48 million children are not registered at the time of their birth and therefore will never have either a birth certificate or a recognised name,
- B. whereas registration at the time of birth and a birth certificate are prerequisites to the attainment of many social rights,
- C. whereas these children are denied any form of school education, given that without a birth certificate they may not enrol at a school and often do not have access to medical or social services,
- D. whereas the lack of a birth certificate means that these children are denied any future prospects, as well as the possibility of establishing themselves in society,
- E. whereas these children are not only invisible in the eyes of the State but also in those of society, meaning that not only will no authority or institution accept responsibility for them, but also that the problems and difficulties which they face often go unnoticed by society,
- F. whereas the 191 UN Member States have all signed and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 7(1) of which states: "The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents";
1. Calls on the UN to exert pressure on its Member States to ensure more stringent application of both the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, to the Commission and to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.