

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Thierry Cornillet

on international penalties for counterfeiting medicines

Lapse date: 3.11.2006

0053/2006

Written declaration on international penalties for counterfeiting medicines

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the counterfeiting of medicines is the most serious and amoral of all forms of counterfeiting, and whereas it is a growing problem endangering the lives of millions of people,
- B. whereas these ‘medicines’, which can be too strong, too weak, with no active ingredient or even poisonous, circulate mainly in developing countries and are used to treat fatal conditions such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS,
- C. whereas counterfeit medicines account for 6-10% of the world market and whereas 25% of the medicines consumed in Africa are believed to be counterfeit,
 1. Calls on the Commission to go beyond its ‘Strategy for the enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries’;
 2. Encourages the European Union to take measures to combat this problem on its territory;
 3. Calls on the European institutions to take steps to strengthen the capacities of regulation and quality control of medical products and materials in countries with few resources;
 4. Urges the European Union to take the lead in promoting a worldwide convention aimed at creating in each country’s legislation a specific criminal offence (serious crime or other major offence) relating to the counterfeiting or illegal possession of medicines;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.