

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Sepp Kusstatscher, Eva Lichtenberger, Alexander Alvaro, Lissy Gröner and Thomas Mann

on respect for human rights in relation to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing

Lapse date: 1.2.2007

Written declaration on respect for human rights in relation to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas there is a considerable contradiction between the human rights situation in China and the principles established in the Olympic Charter,
 - B. failing to understand in the slightest the IOC's leniency towards China's disregard for the Olympic spirit,
 - C. outraged by the Chinese Government's censorship decree,
1. Calls on the European Commission and the European Council to:
 - make representations to the IOC, with a view to ensuring that China acknowledges a code of conduct, the disregard for which will have consequences;
 - obtain the immediate release of critics of the Olympics in China;
 - form a joint High Level Group from the UN, EU and IOC, in order to establish the principles to be observed by China during and after the Olympic games;
 - persuade the Chinese Government to rescind the censorship degree and guarantee the freedom of speech for citizens and journalists;
 - press for the Chinese leadership to conclude, by 2008, negotiations with representatives of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile on a genuine system of autonomy;
 - address the whereabouts of the 11th Panchen Lama and bring about his release before 2008;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the European Council, the European Commission, the national parliaments of the Member States, the IOC and national Olympic Committees in the Member States.