

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

13.11.2006

0082/2006

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Stanisław Jałowiecki

on the use of clearer language in European Union documents

Lapse date: 23.2.2007

Written declaration on the use of clearer language in European Union documents

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,

- A. whereas language is the basic tool of interpersonal communication,
 - B. whereas interpersonal communication is made easier by the use of more comprehensible and everyday language in documents drawn up by the European institutions,
 - C. whereas the use of new and complicated terminology presents particular problems for the translation of documents into the many official languages of the European Union (which will total 23 from 1 January 2007),
 - D. whereas the use of terminology far removed from the language employed by citizens strengthens mistrust in the European institutions,
 - E. whereas the Commission and other institutions are calling for greater 'transparency of activities' and readability of documents in the aim of improving citizens' access to information, which is not, however, reflected in official European Union documents,
 - F. whereas there is a tendency in draft legislation proposed by the Commission to create and use unclear and unnecessary terms, of which the following, taken from just one sector – the transport sector, serve as examples: co-modality, intermodal platform, internalisation of external costs, interoperability, intermodality etc.¹
1. Calls on the Commission to limit the use of jargon to make documents clearer and more comprehensible to EU citizens;
 2. Calls on the Commission to employ known and established terms in use in the Union's official languages;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.

¹ Source: Mid-term review of the European Commission's 2001 Transport White Paper.