

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

13.11.2006

0083/2006

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Philip Claeys, Frank Vanhecke and Koenraad Dillen

on discrimination against trade union members on the basis of their political preferences in Belgium

Lapse date: 23.2.2007

0083/2006

Written declaration on discrimination against trade union members on the basis of their political preferences in Belgium

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in certain Member States, including Belgium, trade unions perform a number of tasks on behalf of the State (such as paying unemployment benefits), in return for which they are reimbursed with taxpayers' money,
- B. whereas membership of a trade union therefore constitutes a practical advantage in terms of obtaining certain social rights,
 1. Notes that hundreds of people, particularly in Belgium, have been expelled from their trade union for standing as candidates on an election list submitted by the opposition party Vlaams Belang;
 2. Condemns this discrimination on the basis of political preference as contravening Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR);
 3. Urges the Commission to investigate this situation and to remind the Belgian Federal Government of its responsibilities;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the Belgian Federal Government.