

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Philip Claeys, Frank Vanhecke and Koenraad Dillen

on ritual slaughter without anaesthesia

Lapse date: 15.4.2007

0001/2007

Written declaration on ritual slaughter without anaesthesia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, on the occasion of the Islamic Feast of Sacrifices, millions of sheep are slaughtered within the European Union without anaesthesia,
- B. whereas slaughter without anaesthesia causes the animals unnecessary pain,
- C. whereas most Member States have rules on ritual slaughter, inter alia regarding the compulsory use of recognised places of slaughter,
- D. whereas the ban on slaughter without anaesthesia generally does not apply to ritual slaughter,
 1. Notes that, in a number of Member States, the law is disregarded on a massive scale, and that much ritual slaughter is performed under appalling conditions;
 2. Notes that, provided that anaesthesia is reversible, it does not violate the religious rules in force;
 3. Calls on the Commission and Council to urge Member States to make it compulsory to anaesthetise animals even before ritual slaughter and to monitor compliance with the existing law more strictly;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and Commission.