

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

15.1.2007

0002/2007

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Robert Evans, Mojca Drčar Murko, Gitte Seeberg and Carl Schlyter

on the EU-wide ban on bullfighting

Lapse date: 15.4.2007

0002/2007

Written declaration on the EU-wide ban on bullfighting

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. having regard to Protocol No 33 to the EC Treaty, which refers to animals as ‘sentient beings’ and states the Union’s desire to ‘ensure improved protection and respect for the welfare of animals’,
- B. whereas, since bullfighting has never been declared by any EU institution to be a cultural heritage and no Member State has ever applied for any EU funds or support for bullfighting on cultural grounds, it is merely to be seen as a habitual practice that has become a performance business,
- C. whereas bullfighting is based on stressing, exhausting, injuring and/or killing bulls and results in over 40 000 bull deaths per annum in the EU,
- D. whereas this practice runs contrary to the bold and ambitious steps laid out in the Commission’s Animal Welfare Action Plan for 2006-2010, which place the EU at the forefront of improving global animal welfare,
 1. Calls on the Commission to act upon Parliament’s response to the Animal Welfare Action Plan, which called for *all* animals, and not just farm animals and those used in experiments, to be included in EU animal protection measures;
 2. Calls on the Commission to take further steps to ensure that EU farm subsidies cannot be given to farmers who breed bulls to be used in bullfighting;
 3. Calls on the Commission and Member States to take action to bring bullfighting into line with the EU’s broader approach to animal welfare and to work toward an EU-wide ban on bullfighting;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the Member State governments.