

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jim Higgins, Dan Jørgensen, John Bowis and Linda McAvan

on trans fatty acids

Lapse date: 30.4.2007

Written declaration on trans fatty acids

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Council Directive 90/496/EEC and its intended revision,
- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. noting that diseases of the heart and circulatory system account for 1.9 million deaths in the European Union per year,
- B. noting that trans fatty acids are proven to increase LDL cholesterol while decreasing HDL cholesterol, increasing the risk of developing coronary heart disease, thus contributing to diseases of the heart and circulatory system,
- C. whereas the replacement of trans fatty acids with alternatives in food production can lead to increasing levels of HDL cholesterol, which helps to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease,
- D. concerned that the lack of existing legislation across the EU poses unnecessary health risks to citizens,
- E. welcoming the initiative taken by the Kingdom of Denmark regarding legislation aimed at significantly reducing the amount of trans fatty acids in food products,
- F. regretting the move taken by the European Commission to initiate legal proceedings against the Kingdom of Denmark,
- 1. Calls on the Commission and Council to increase awareness of the dangers of trans fatty acids by introducing a mandatory labelling system and public awareness campaigns;
- 2. Calls on the Commission and Council, in light of the available scientific and factual information, to introduce the necessary measures to ensure a movement towards the elimination of trans fatty acids from food products;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.