

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Ivo Belet, Jean-Luc Bennahmias, Adeline Hazan, Guy Bono and  
Patrick Gaubert

on combating the trafficking and exploitation of children in football

Lapse date: 28.6.2007

**Written declaration on combating the trafficking and exploitation of children in football**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - A. having regard to the increase in the trafficking of young African footballers and the chaotic arrangements under which they are brought to Europe, where many of these young people find themselves facing an uncertain future,
  - B. having regard to the economic lure of football for millions of African children and the danger that creates, in view of the activities of illegal recruitment organisations,
  - C. whereas the recruiters are either players' agents banned from any involvement in football or individuals working with European professional clubs,
  - D. having regard to the provisions protecting minors which already exist in football regulations and the laws of most European States,
  - E. whereas the fact that the next World Cup will take place in Africa in 2010 may exacerbate this phenomenon,
1. Condemns in emphatic terms the trafficking of young players;
  2. Calls on the European football authorities and States to do everything in their power to halt these practices;
  3. Calls on UEFA to introduce provisions supplementing the rule on 'locally trained players' with a view to preventing any increase in the 'trafficking of very young players';
  4. Acknowledges the social role played by associations in combating the exploitation of children;
  5. Calls on the football authorities (UEFA, FIFA, leagues) to consider the possibility of imposing penalties on the clubs and agents involved in this trafficking;
  6. Recommends the drawing-up of a charter for football based on the principle of solidarity and the establishment of a specific fund to finance preventive programmes in young players' countries of origin;
  7. Draws the attention of the political authorities to a possible solution in the form of a co-development policy;
  8. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, UEFA and FIFA.