

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Roberto Musacchio, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Françoise Castex, Maria da Assunção Esteves and Jean Lambert

on the role of voluntary service and fire brigades in emergency civil protection operations

Lapse date: 6.9.2007

Written declaration on the role of voluntary service and fire brigades in emergency civil protection operations

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision altering the Community civil protection mechanism set up in 2001,
 - having regard to its resolution of 24 October 2006 on that proposal,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas volunteers play a key role in civil protection operations, in both qualitative and quantitative terms,
 - B. whereas fire brigades in all the Member States have a substantial voluntary service component,
 - C. whereas a firefighter's work implies strong personal motivation and also, on many occasions, great risks to personal safety,
1. Acknowledges the essential role of voluntary service in emergency civil protection organisations, both at the prevention and anticipation stage and when operations proper are organised and carried out;
 2. Hopes that the associations representing civil protection volunteers will be involved more actively at every stage of organisation under the Community mechanism;
 3. Proposes that a 'European firefighters' day' be established in recognition of the work that they do, sometimes risking their lives;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, and the parliaments and governments of the Member States.