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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

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on water efficiency

Lapse date: 6.9.2007

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Written declaration on water efficiency

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas climate is rapidly changing and as a consequence water scarcity is increasing and fresh water resources are decreasing worldwide,
 - B. whereas this is also a growing problem in Europe, where more and more frequently there are problems with water scarcity, especially around large cities and in southern Europe,
 - C. whereas the Water Framework Directive (WFD) indirectly addresses issues of water scarcity and of drought events, mainly through the implementation of river basin management plans and associated programmes of measures, but demand-side measures are not yet a priority of the WFD nor of existing EC legislation in general,
 - D. whereas measures at EU level are also needed in order to pursue sustainable management of the quantities of fresh water and to increase water availability,
 - E. whereas the Treaty establishing the European Community calls for prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources and provides that the quantitative management of water resources lies within the Community competence,
1. Calls upon the EU Institutions to:
 - consider the introduction of fresh water efficiency measures,
 - consider the introduction of measures directed to the end user with a view to reducing excessive and irrational use of fresh water;
 2. Calls on the Commission, also in its legislative initiative, to propose measures which will contribute to rational quantitative water management and fresh water savings,
 3. Calls on the Council and the Governments of the Member States to give serious consideration to the introduction of fresh water savings measures;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.