

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Radu Podgorean, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Dan Mihalache, Alexandru Athanasiu and Cristian Dumitrescu

on measures to combat violence in educational institutions against children and young people

Lapse date: 14.9.2007

Written declaration on measures to combat violence in educational institutions against children and young people

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas violence in educational institutions is a major social problem affecting both students' academic performance and the values of the democratic system,
- B. whereas genuine democracy means not only affirming but guaranteeing the values on which it is based, and the protection of physical integrity is part of that value-system,
- C. whereas when individual liberties are threatened the state must intervene against abuses;
- D. whereas on 16 April 2007, at Virginia Tech University in the US, a gun attack - the latest in a series of such events - took place, leading to 33 deaths, among them the academics Liviu Librescu, Kevin Granata and G.V. Loghantan, who sacrificed their lives protecting students;
- E. whereas similar incidents have happened on a smaller scale in the EU, thanks in certain cases to lax gun controls,
- 1. Calls on the Commission and Council to consider proposals for reducing the likelihood of similar grave incidents occurring and implementing uniform and much stricter rules on access to guns and munitions, including a higher age-limit for obtaining a license;
- 2. Calls on the Commission and Council to promote educational programmes for preventing violence in educational institutions and the mass media;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the Parliaments of the Member States.