EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004 *2009*

24.9.2007 0079/2007

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Tadeusz Zwiefka

on the protection of the Old Town of Grodno

Lapse date: 24.12.2007

0079/2007

Written declaration on the protection of the Old Town of Grodno

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the local authorities in Belarus have no comprehensive regeneration programme for the historic centre of Grodno,

B. whereas in 1996 Belarus signed a decree on joining the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage,

C. whereas, according to the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (the Venice Charter), the concept of a monument does not just cover large works of art but also those of cultural importance,

D. whereas the building of a four-lane road through the historic centre of Grodno, without any prior excavation work, has destroyed the mediaeval layout of the former marketplace,

E. whereas plans to build a new road from the heart of the Old Town may lead to further damage to the monuments in Grodno's historic centre,

1. Calls for UNESCO to set up an international commission that can draw up specialist reports in favour of the preservation and restoration of Grodno's Old Town with a view to including it on the UNESCO list;

2. Urges the Grodno city authorities to consider alternative transport plans that do not affect the city's historic centre and to carry out consultations on all reconstruction projects involving independent experts, including from other European countries;

3. Condemns the reconstruction programme for the historic centre of Grodno carried out thus far in breach of all Belarusian and European provisions and principles concerning archaeological and conservation/restoration work;

4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the Council.

EN