

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

---

24.9.2007

0080/2007

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Frank Vanhecke, Philip Claeys and Koenraad Dillen

on the Olympic Games in China in 2008

Lapse date: 24.12.2007

0080/2007

**Written declaration on the Olympic Games in China in 2008**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China assured the International Olympic Committee in 2001 that the freedoms and rights of both foreign and domestic journalists would be guaranteed, with a view to ensuring compliance with Rule 51 of the Charter of the International Olympic Committee,
- B. whereas the Chinese Government has indeed introduced temporary rules on press freedom, but Chinese journalists are deliberately excluded from their scope,
- C. whereas foreign journalists reporting on 'sensitive topics' such as political dissidents, human rights, Tibet, social and economic problems are nevertheless persistently being physically intimidated, harassed or arrested,
- D. whereas this bodes extremely ill for the freedoms and safety of the thousands of journalists in China during the Olympic Games,
  1. Points out that China is taking not the slightest notice of its undertakings to the International Olympic Committee, and calls for a boycott of these games;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Government of the People's Republic of China.