

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jim Allister, Neil Parish, Mairead McGuinness, James Nicholson, Ville Itälä
on dogfighting in the EU

Lapse date: 24.1.2008

0086/2007

Written declaration on dogfighting in the EU

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Protocol No 33 to the EC Treaty, which refers to animals as 'sentient beings' and states the Union's desire to 'ensure improved protection and respect for the welfare of animals',
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 seeks to regulate the movement of dogs and other pets within the EU,
 - B. whereas the BBC Panorama programme on 30 August 2007 exposed the appalling subculture of dogfighting within Europe and the disturbing trade in fighting dogs within the EU,
 - C. whereas dogfighting is barbaric and devoid of any aspect of legitimate sport,
 - D. whereas this practice runs contrary to the steps laid out in the Commission's Animal Welfare Action Plan for 2006-2010, which aims to improve global animal welfare,
1. Calls on the Commission to act upon Parliament's response to the Animal Welfare Action Plan, which called for all animals, not just farm animals, to be included in EU animal protection measures;
 2. Calls on the Commission to take further steps to ensure that dogfighting is stamped out throughout the EU;
 3. Calls on the Commission to review the operation of the EU Pet Passport scheme under Regulation (EC) 998/2003, with a view to ensuring that its purposes are not frustrated by the misdescription of dogs;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and the governments of the Member States.