

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

---

10.12.2007

0113/2007

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jo Leinen, Vural Öger and Marek Siwiec

on the proposition of a creation of a Committee of wise men

Lapse date: 26.3.2008

**Written declaration on the proposition of a creation of a Committee of wise men**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the proposal to create a 'Committee of wise men', mandated to consider Europe's future,
  - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Parliament is a democratically elected body representing Europe's citizens which constitutes the appropriate forum for debates on EU's future, its structures and frontiers,
- B. whereas the Convention method is the most successful, transparent and democratic way to open such a debate and serves as a model,
- C. whereas the European Commission is the negotiating institution towards future enlargements and should keep its competencies,
1. Considers that the European Parliament is the legitimate place to lead a debate on EU's future, European values and identity; considers that a real European public sphere can only be achieved within a transparent framework;
  2. Points out that the creation of a 'Committee of wise men' would lack democratic legitimacy; believes that a debate behind closed doors risks losing the trust of the European citizen; considers that the creation of such a committee would undermine the EU's credibility and its existing institutions;
  3. Believes that the Convention method with parliamentary and civil society involvement would be more appropriate to create a public debate;
  4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the Commission and the Council.