

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Vladimír Železný

on the requirement for a consolidated version of the Lisbon Treaty reforming the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community

Lapse date: 26.5.2008

Written declaration on the requirement for a consolidated version of the Lisbon Treaty reforming the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas the Lisbon Treaty is currently available only in an unconsolidated version, which prevents legislators and the Member States from gaining an overview of what has been ratified,
 - B. whereas this has the effect of encoding the content in a confused form and whereas a consolidated version of the treaty will not be published in all the EU official languages until after the ratification processes have been completed,
 - C. whereas the right of access to documents issued by EU bodies, institutions and other entities is a democratic right enjoyed by each and every citizen,
 - D. whereas Article 255 of the Amsterdam Treaty requires there to be maximum openness and transparency in the work of the EU's bodies, and whereas the purpose of European Parliament and Council Regulation No 1049/2001 of 30 May 2001 is to consolidate the public's right of access to documents,
 - E. whereas it is likely that the democratic deficit will continue to deepen, since the failure to issue a consolidated version goes against (amongst other things) the principle that citizens' interests take precedence over institutional interests, the principle that the EU upholds linguistic diversity and the strategy of strengthening democracy in the EU,
1. Requests the Commission (which is the 'guardian of the treaties' and the EC/EU executive body) to uphold those principles;
 2. Calls upon the Commission to publish a consolidated version of the Lisbon Treaty promptly and to ensure that - pursuant to Article 1 of the EU Treaty, the White Paper on European governance and the European transparency initiative - an overview of that document's actual nature can be gained;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the Member States' parliaments.