EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Herbert Bösch, Harald Ettl, Stephen Hughes, André Brie and Othmar Karas

on the degrading dismissal practices employed by the Swiss concern Novartis

Lapse date: 19.6.2008

0021/2008

Written declaration on the degrading dismissal practices employed by the Swiss concern Novartis

The European Parliament,

– whereas, shortly before Christmas, 250 employees of the Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research GmbH & Co KG in Vienna were told in a video message, and without prior consultation and information, that the institute was to be shut down,

– whereas the local manager's only comment on the message was 'That's it',

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

A. whereas Directive 94/45/EC requires undertakings, such as, in this case, Novartis, to consult and inform their employees, in a timely, appropriate manner and with the necessary respect, about possible restructuring measures or, as in this case, the closure of part of the undertaking,

B. whereas the decision to disregard the established European fundamental right to be informed and consulted in good time represents a breach of the Charter of Fundamental Rights,

C. whereas already in May 2007 calls were made for prompt action by the EU Commission with a view to guaranteeing the proper implementation of the European directive on information and consultation (Directive 2002/14) in the EU Member States and to moving the revision of the European Works Council Directive forward,

1. Condemns Novartis's actions as incompatible with a social Europe;

2. Calls on Novartis, on that basis, to give assurances that closures or relocations will not take place without the prior provision of comprehensive information to and proper consultations with workers' representatives and their trade unions; in addition, calls on the management of Novartis to consider what impact this restructuring strategy will have on the EU as a research location;

3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.