

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Tomáš Zatloukal, Eva Lichtenberger, Grażyna Staniszevska, Zita Pleštinská and Holger Krahmer

on the Danube-Oder-Elbe canal

Lapse date: 9.9.2008

Written declaration on the Danube-Oder-Elbe canal

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Directive No 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy and designed to ensure that sustainable, balanced, equitable use of water continues,
 - having regard to Directive No 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora,
 - having regard to the Ramsar Convention of 2 February 1971 on wetlands of international importance, especially as waterfowl habitat,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Union does not take the Danube-Oder-Elbe canal into account in its plans for the trans-European transport networks (TENs) up to 2020,
- B. whereas the ban on construction work (for which there is no longer any justification) is making life difficult in dozens of districts; in the affected areas, restrictions have been placed on the planning and implementation of building and redevelopment projects,
- C. whereas any alteration to the Danube-Oder-Elbe canal project would adversely affect NATURA 2000 sites, Ramsar areas, biosphere reserves and other protected areas, which would constitute a failure by the countries concerned to honour their international commitments,
1. Considers it important for the project to be withdrawn from the existing development plans and for the question of mandatory territorial protection for the routes followed by the canal to be settled;
 2. Takes the view that lifting the ban on construction work would amongst other things enable the necessary ecological measures to be adopted, biological diversity to be protected and sustainable development to be pursued;
 3. Calls upon the governments of the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Austria and Germany to take the essential action required in order to have the ban on construction work lifted;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States' parliaments and governments.